

Bonn shocked by resignation

Genscher quits as strikes put pressure on Kohl

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

HANS-DIETRICH Genscher yesterday announced his resignation after 18 years as Germany's foreign minister. His decision shocked Bonn and increased pressure on Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, who is coping with a strike by 75,000 public service workers.

The strike, the first in Germany's public sector since 1974, severely disrupted postal services, public transport and rubbish collection. Thousands of commuters were stranded and traffic jams clogged city centres from Berlin to Stuttgart, but Herr Kohl refused to consider what he said were the unrealistic demands of the trade unions.

Herr Genscher, 65, said in his resignation statement that he wanted to return to the back benches and devote his energies to easing the process of German unification. His replacement at the foreign ministry will be Ingrid Gaus, 50, who served as his deputy for four years until she was promoted to the cabinet as housing

minister 15 months ago. Like Herr Genscher, she is a member of the small Free Democrat Party (FDP).

At the turn of the year Herr Genscher warned Herr Kohl that he planned to retire on May 17, the anniversary of the day that he became foreign minister. The chancellor told no-one, but promised that the post would continue to be filled by a member of the FDP.

Herr Genscher's resignation and the strike add to Germany's troubles at a time when other leading European countries are also suffering a deep political malaise. In France, President Mitterrand presides over a government whose popularity has plummeted, while Italy is still searching for a government after elections that demonstrated popular disillusionment with the established parties.

Germany is traditionally Europe's economic locomotive and since unification it has been at the forefront of moves toward European Union. But top level resignations, public sector strikes and the rise of the far right in local elections suggest a loss of confidence and momentum. Bonn finds itself under criticism from its Western partners not only over policy on Yugoslavia but also for refusing to help to revive the world economy by cutting interest rates.

Herr Kohl also had to find a replacement health minister yesterday after the resignation of Gerda Hasselfeldt, 41, who had lost the confidence of the medical profession during her 15 months in office and had been damaged by the disclosure that one of her aides had spied for Poland. Her replacement will be Horst Seehofer, 42, like her a member of the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU).

Herr Genscher, at his 65th birthday celebrations last month, gave every indication that he was prepared to go on in the job indefinitely, in spite of having made his mind up to retire. He has suffered a series of minor heart attacks and his health may have played some part in his decision. It has been reported that

he may stand for election as president, to succeed Richard von Weizsäcker, whose second term in office runs out in 1994.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, expressed sadness at his resignation. He called him an outstanding leader of Europe who was among those who had most contributed to the end of the cold war. "I have valued Herr Genscher highly both as a colleague and a friend with whom a quick word on the telephone or a snatched exchange of confidences at some European meeting has always been worth a hundred official telegrams."

In spite of the poor performance of the FDP in elections, Herr Genscher remains Germany's most popular politician, with a high rating in both east and west. Since unification in 1990, however, he has increasingly lost his feel for foreign affairs. He was the first western statesman to recognise the importance of Mikhail Gorbachev, but almost the last to understand that the former Soviet leader no longer mattered.

His great contribution was in following an Ostpolitik that inexorably eroded the Iron Curtain. He made Herr Kohl recognise the new Polish frontier, forcing the chancellor to realise that national borders were less important than international co-operation.

His tireless search for a peaceful solution to every problem sometimes blinded him to the dangers of appeasement. He could not understand that Germany's reputation in the West would suffer through not taking a tougher stand against Iraq. He bulldozed an unwilling European Community into early recognition of the independence of Croatia and Slovenia to the annoyance of the United States. Diplomats said that Herr Genscher's relationship with Herr Kohl had become strained, not least in European affairs.

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German unrest helps to push up sterling

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE pound rose to its highest level against the mark since last summer, as international investors reacted with unease to the wave of industrial unrest in Germany and the resignation of Hans-Dietrich Genscher. The pound was also supported by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, who said economic recovery in Britain would be "firmly established" this year.

Mr Lamont was speaking in Washington after a meeting of Group of Seven finance ministers, which called on all seven leading industrialised countries to promote non-inflationary growth in their countries. Although an explicit reference to Japan was

removed from the communiqué, the G7 made clear that Japan must do more to stimulate its domestic economy by cutting taxes or raising public spending. The prospect of more expansionary policies in Japan contributed to a rise in the yen against the mark and this also helped strengthen the pound against the German currency.

The pound rose to its highest point in the European exchange rate mechanism since September. It closed only 0.5 per cent below its midpoint against the mark and above both the lira and franc.

Sterling leaps, page 15

Red Indian's green gospel exposed as fake

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

FOR nearly two decades, the environmentally correct from Eastern Europe to the West of America have drawn inspiration from the majestic thoughts of Chief Seattle, the 19th century Indian leader who foresaw the destruction of nature that would be wrought by the white man.

In a famous letter to the American president in 1854, part of which was read by religious leaders around the world last week to mark Earth Day, the great chief of the Suquamish people said "The Earth is Our Mother" and spoke of the destruction of buffalo. He had, he said, seen them "rotting on the prairies, left by the white man who shot them from a passing train". Thanks to the publicity over the global event, a small hatch has arisen for worshippers of the

Indian's wisdom: it was fabricated by a Texas writer in 1971. There were no bison within 600 miles of Seattle's land on Puget Sound and he never saw one in his life; the first train was still 15 years away at the time and the great buffalo slaughter took place a decade after Seattle died in 1866, bequeathing his name to the city, according to experts who say the "Seattle message" is a puzzling and tenuous fraud.

This week, Ted Perry, who dreamed up the chief's poetic visions for *Home*, a 1972 television film on ecology, came forward to express amazement that his words had been adopted as gospel by the politically correct despite his efforts to set the record straight. "Why are we so willing to accept a text like this if it's attributed to a native American?" Perry asked in *Newsweek*. "It's another case of placing native Ameri-

cans up on a pedestal and not taking responsibility for our own actions."

Publicity over the Seattle fabrication has done little to daunt the true believers, among them the publishers of the children's book, *Brother Eagle, Sister Sky*, a bestseller which purports to be an extract from a famous speech by the chief and which formed the basis for the 1954 letter to President Franklin Pierce. "For want of a tape recorder, maybe we have a book that will change children's view about the environment," said Phyllis Fogelman, president of Dial Books, the publishers.

In the book and the Earth Day letter, Seattle asks: "What will happen when the secret corners of the forest are heavy with the scent of many men and the view of the ripe hills is blotted by talking wires? No where, say the experts, do anything like these thoughts appear in the only

authentic text of the 1854 speech, which was translated in 1887. Seattle, a formidable warrior who moved on to diplomacy and became a Roman Catholic, really talked in florid Victorian prose about differences between the Indian and Christian faith.

"Basically, I don't know what he said," Susan Jeffers, the creator of the book, told *The New York Times*. "But I do know that the native American people lived this philosophy and that's what is important."

If Seattle had not actually said these things, he conveyed the feeling of his race, say the environmentalists. The Earth Day organisers and other ecologists reached for the logic of "poetic" rather than "factual" truth, an effective approach given the prevailing view among the politically correct that White Man always speaks with forked tongue.



Made to order: Betty Boothroyd, the Labour MP for West Bromwich West, who was elected yesterday as the first woman Speaker

Boothroyd beats Brooke to Madam Speaker's chair

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

BETTY Boothroyd was elected yesterday as the first woman Speaker of the House of Commons, taking on the post in which her calls of "Order, order" will make hers one of the best known voices in the land.

MPs on all sides stood and flouted Commons tradition by applauding her into the chair. She was only the third woman to hold the post since 1929 after a vote of 372-238, a majority of 134. The vote came on an amendment proposing that her name should be substituted for that of Peter Brooke, the former Northern Ireland secretary, and made clear the wish of the House.

The amended motion proposing Miss Boothroyd, 62, was then carried without a vote, ensuring that there were no further rounds allowing supporters of other potential candidates, who included former ministers Sir Giles Shaw and Dame Janet Fookes, to put their case. Paul Channon, the former transport minister, had already withdrawn in favour of Mr Brooke.

But the failure of the Conservatives to agree among themselves on a single candidate, fears among some MPs

that Mr Brooke, as a minister until this month might not be enough of a "backbencher" man, and Miss Boothroyd's proven record in the chair and popularity across the House ensured her victory.

She was pulled to the chair with the traditional show of reluctance. Mr Brooke was one of the first to congratulate her.

The one-time Tiller girl, an MP since 1974 and a former Labour whip, has won respect for her brisk commonsense and good humour as a deputy speaker since 1987. She becomes the 155th speaker in the 600-year-old history of the post and is the first Speaker since the war to be chosen from the ranks of the Opposition party.

MPs who enquired what to call her when she became a deputy speaker were told to inform "Call me Madam." Continued on page 14, col 2

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Diary, page 10
Leading article, page 11
Matthew Parris, page 14
L&T section, page 5

Bombs and gunfire mock Kabul ceasefire

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

AFGHAN air force jets bombed fundamentalist Mujahidin positions yesterday in spite of agreement on a ceasefire in Kabul.

As Soviet-built Sukhoi 22 fighter-bombers screamed off the city's airport runway, gunfire could be heard in the city centre. A long line of refugees streamed out of the ancient citadel of Bala Hissar which was attacked for

the second day running by guerrillas loyal to the fundamentalist hardliner Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Details of the ceasefire agreement are being discussed in Peshawar by Mujahidin leaders and high-ranking Pakistani officials, who said the rival leaders had agreed to end the fighting.

Attempt to govern, page 7

How US jammed Saddam's defences

In the opening shots of the Gulf war, America used a secret carbon fibre weapon to knock out Iraq's electrical power supplies. Michael Evans writes

A secret new weapon was used by the Americans to knock out Baghdad's power supplies on the first night of the allied bombing raids last year, according to a report published in Washington yesterday.

Thousands of rolls of thin carbon fibre wire were dispersed over outdoor switching and transformer stations by ship-launched Tomahawk cruise missiles, short-circuiting many of the electrical power sources for Iraq's air defence systems. The aim was to "blind" President Saddam's defences to prevent the Iraqis from launching missiles at allied bombers in the early stages of the campaign, without destroying all the power stations.

Bombing the electrical generators in the conventional manner with high explosives would have put the power stations out of action for years, and the allies were on record as saying they wanted to limit damage suffered by the civilian population.

The operation, codenamed "Poobah's Party", after the personal call sign of US Air Force Major General Larry Henry, who was in charge of the electronic war against Iraq, did not go exactly to plan: some of the cruise missiles flew into their targets and exploded instead of releasing their carbon fibre warheads at the proper altitude.

The details of the secret electronic war were published yesterday in the authoritative American magazine, *Aviation Week & Space Technology*.

There was no reference to the carbon fibre warfare in the Pentagon's 1,300-page Gulf war report published last week. But it did say: "Losing primary electrical power sources in the first days of the war helped reduce Iraq's ability to respond to coalition attacks."

Previous US Navy reports also referred to the use of Tomahawks "to disrupt functions in a target facility, rather than to destroy a facility".

A spokeswoman for the US Navy refused to comment yesterday on the reported secret carbon fibre weapon. But a

Continued on page 14, col 5

TODAY IN THE TIMES

NEW LOOK TRADITION



This summer Glyndebourne aficionados will share the picnic grounds with a building site. *Life & Times* Page 1

NEW WORLD ADVENTURE



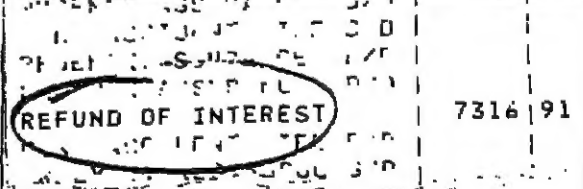
Fly to the West Coast of America and take your partner along at no extra charge. *Life & Times* Page 5

NEW VIEW CHALLENGE



Twenty vital questions for the BBC governors. *Life & Times* Page 7

An interesting statement from the Bank



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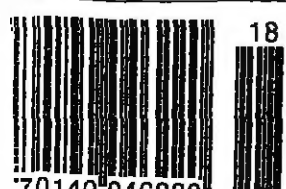
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Bottomley tells nurses to raise complaints

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

NURSES concerned about poor standards of health service care were yesterday urged to speak out by Virginia Bottomley, the new health secretary, as the Royal College of Nursing launched a report suggesting that many feel too intimidated by managers to complain.

However, Mrs Bottomley said there was no need to introduce legislation to protect nurses who raised concerns. She also declined to criticise confidentiality clauses in contracts of employment.

Mrs Bottomley was responding to a call by Chris

Hancock, general secretary of the RCN, at the college's annual congress in Blackpool, for an end to "aggressive styles of management" in the NHS. "The use of a confidentiality clause in a contract of employment is an obvious manifestation of new aggressive management styles," Ms Hancock said.

Mrs Bottomley nodded in agreement as Ms Hancock said: "Commonly, nurses perceive that managers have absorbed the culture of competition and commercial confidence and forgotten that they are managing an accountable public service."

In response to concerns that nurses were afraid to express worries, the college last May set up a confidential service, RCN Whistleblow, which has received more than 100 letters requesting help. Launching a report on the service, Ms Hancock said the letters were "the tip of the iceberg" and revealed "a growing catalogue of stress, overstretched resources and an overriding fear of being singled out if nurses dare to report poor conditions to their managers."

At a press conference later, Mrs Bottomley said nurses "have a duty to take up cases where they are worried about the professional care of their patients". But it was essential to maintain patient confidentiality, she said. "That is the reason employers expect staff first to raise concerns with management but this must lie alongside their professional duty to take up cases where they are concerned." She said there was no need for legislation to protect nurses who spoke out.

The issue of gagging clauses in contracts of employment is becoming increasingly sensitive in the new market-style NHS. Ms Hancock said it was a "serious pity" that the health secretary had not made a stronger commitment to removing gagging clauses.

Health reforms press on

THERE will be no slowing in the pace of change in the NHS, Mrs Bottomley told the congress (Jeremy Laurance writes).

In her first major speech since her promotion, she said the message she had received "time and again" when visiting hospitals in recent weeks was that the NHS needed a period of continuity and stability. "I share that view." But she added: "My job is to see that the momentum of the reforms is maintained." Later she explained that there would be "continuity and stability in the overall policy and direction".

In an emotive speech, she said she would adopt the softly-softly approach of her predecessor.

William Waldegrave, rather than the abrasive ways of Kenneth Clarke, architect of the reforms. But she provoked loud protests when she reaffirmed the freedom of NHS trusts to set their own pay and conditions, with the pay review body remaining to provide "a benchmark".



Memory lane: trams returned to the streets of Manchester yesterday after an absence of 43 years as part of the £130 million Metrolink system that uses railway lines as well as a new network in the city centre

Time-out delay for Short

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

ANATOLI Karpov called for a time-out yesterday before the final game of his world chess championship semi-final in Linares, Spain, to try to break the momentum of Britain's Nigel Short.

Short, who leads by five points to four, needs only to draw the tenth game to win the match. It must be played today as Karpov is allowed only one time-out. Karpov will be hoping that by employing this final shot in his arsenal of gamesmanship the match can be turned to his advantage.

A win or draw for Short, who has used his time-out, will make him the first British player to reach the final of the world chess championship candidates competition.

House income plan victims reject building society offer

BY TONY DAWES

VICTIMS of an investment scandal who are threatened with losing their homes rejected a compensation offer yesterday from the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, the leading society to have granted loans for the investments.

They dismissed the offer as "ambiguous and cynical" and insisted that the society must set aside the mortgages it had provided for the failed investments. Some plan to demonstrate at the society's annual meeting in Gloucester tomorrow.

As *The Times* reported yesterday, many of the 10,000 mostly elderly people who have lost out on home income plans are preparing to sue the building societies that financed them because the brokers who arranged the plans have gone bankrupt. Yesterday the

C&G offered borrowers who took out plans with the now-defunct Aylesbury Associates of Bromley, Kent, "a special arrangement" instead of going to court. Andrew Longhurst, C&G's chief executive, said: "Our aim is to ensure that those borrowers who bought home income plans from Aylesbury Associates are put back in the position they were before taking out their plan."

People who took out plans with approved firms which have since folded may be able to seek redress through the Investors' Compensation Scheme (ICS) but its organisers insist that other parties including building societies and solicitors must take their share of the blame.

Home income plans ran into trouble because investments failed to produce either the expected income or the money to pay off the mortgage loans leaving people with unmanageable debts which could be met only by selling their homes.

Philip Cheal, spokesman for the main victims' support group, said yesterday that the C&G offer "contributed nothing to solving the problem. It is too ambiguous and fails to tackle the problem of an ongoing mortgage."

Mr Cheal invested £20,000 in a plan arranged by Aylesbury Associates but has lost most of the money and does not have enough to pay his mortgage. "I would never have touched the scheme but for its backing by Cheltenham & Gloucester," he said.

Richard Barnett, of London solicitors Barnett Sampson who represent 400 victims, said last night: "The timing of the document is clearly no accident. It has come just before the annual meeting to try and forestall questions. An award of compensation by ICS will not result in a client's mortgage being set aside so that unless there is full compensation the problem is simply postponed."

By pursuing court action victims should be able to obtain adequate compensation, damages and legal costs, he said.

Investors who took out plans with Fisher Prew-Smith of Southport, Merseyside, were advised yesterday that they must complete forms by May 21 if they wish to seek redress through the ICS.

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Doubts cast on 'healthy fats'

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

USING polyunsaturated fats for cooking can do more harm than good, an American diet specialist says.

Paul Addis, of the university of Minnesota, who is on a British lecture tour financed by the Butter Council, says that overheating polyunsaturated fats releases free radicals, which can damage the body and encourage the formation of blood clots.

Professor Addis says that he is much more concerned about the possible damage caused by these free radicals than he is by total fats in the diet, or by cholesterol in the blood. "Changing your man (or woman) to a high vitamin diet is more likely to save their lives than switching to polyunsaturated fat," Professor Addis says.

The Flora Project, supported by the manufacturers of a spread high in polyunsaturates, responded to the criticism yesterday by releasing a research report showing that no dangerous changes took place in the composition of a cooking oil used for deep frying eight successive times. Deep frying of potatoes for ten minutes at 170C, then maintaining the oil at the same temperature for a further ten minutes, "produced no nutritionally undesirable changes in oils high in polyunsaturates", a team from the food manufacturing company Van den Berghs and Jurgens concluded.

Professor Addis says that the danger arises when the oil is heated again and again or allowed to become overheated so that it smokes. The process creates free radicals which can damage the walls of blood vessels, creating debris which attracts other cells and fatty deposits to cluster together.

These can then form blockages and obstruct the flow of blood, causing heart attacks and death.

The breakdown products produced, he says, are like those found in people who smoke. The body can break them down unless it is too low in anti-oxidant vitamins (C, E and beta-carotene) which are found in fruit and vegetables.

"My first advice is give up smoking," Professor Addis says. "I don't believe people should worry too much about eggs, butter or meat, and should make sure they eat enough fruit, vegetable and fibre."

Wanted man is seen in street

One of three men wanted in connection with the murder in Derby of an army recruiting sergeant is believed to have been seen in the city ten days later and could have come into the open to seek treatment for leg injuries, police disclosed yesterday (Craig Seton writes).

Derbyshire police said that Joseph Magee, 26, had been identified as the person seen talking with another man outside shops in the Alvaston area of Derby, less than two miles from the spot where Sergeant Michael Newman, 34, was shot on April 13.

Don Davostan, an assistant chief constable, said: "We know that he has a repeat prescription card for some drugs that alleviate pain in his legs. The level of pain may be such that he has had to come out onto the streets for that medication."

Senior officers also disclosed yesterday that Mr Magee and two other men, Anthony Gorman, 22 and Declan Duffy, 19, who are also wanted for questioning about the murder, were believed to have been spotted at Derby railway station the day after the shooting.

Mother dies in jump from fire

A woman was killed and her two children seriously injured when they jumped 20ft from a second floor window after fire broke out at their flat in north London yesterday.

Rita Betteridge, 36, of Kentish Town, jumped with her son, 10, and daughter, 5, when they became trapped by smoke and flames. She was dead on arrival at the Royal Free Hospital. The boy had cuts and fractures and the girl had back injuries, a fractured femur and burns.

Architecture writer dies

Sir James Richards, former architecture correspondent of *The Times* and a committed campaigner for coverage of his subject by serious newspapers, died yesterday aged 84.

Editor of *Architecture Review* from 1937-71 and *Hoffman* from 1971-79, Sir James was closely associated with the formation in the 1930s of the Modern Architecture Research Group and the subsequent explanation and promotion of their principles.

Obituary, page 13

Mayor resigns

Bill Woodhead, 62, a Tory councillor who spent his first night as mayor of Stockport, Cleveland, in police custody, has resigned after less than a week in office. Mr Woodhead had appeared before Teesside magistrates accused of assault after his wife Doreen called the police saying that he had attacked her. She asked magistrates to drop the matter. The case was adjourned until May 14.

Simon Luttrell, one of the mayor's two brothers, said the mayor's resignation was a relief. "All of a sudden the case started swirling round and I assumed that it was just because he was in a bit of a state when the case started off the ground."

The bodies of pilot Mark Ives, 34, and student Ken Ramsay, 21, were recovered yesterday from Loch Muick on the Royal Balmoral estate in Grampian two weeks after their light aircraft crashed while on a training flight.

Bodies found

The bodies of pilot Mark Ives, 34, and student Ken Ramsay, 21, were recovered yesterday from Loch Muick on the Royal Balmoral estate in Grampian two weeks after their light aircraft crashed while on a training flight.

Knife escape

A prisoner escaped yesterday after handcuffing a prison officer to the driving of a car in which he was being transported from Kingston Magistrates Court to Wandsworth prison. Anthony Bolden, 28, held the men at knifepoint.

Deborah Sherrin, a law student co-ordinating the legal campaign, said a vote by students on Sunday had cleared the way for the campaign to sue the governing body.

Eighty-four per cent of students are said to oppose the decision to admit men after 112 years of single-sex education. Their stand against the governing body has won the support of distinguished graduates of the college such as Shirley Williams and Margaret Thatcher.

The legal campaign alleges that the college cannot make a fundamental change without parliamentary approval and also claims breaches of contract on the grounds that the students had a legitimate expectation to be consulted.

Jane Whittle, president of the college's middle common room, said that feeling among undergraduates and postgraduates continued to run high. "The principal objection is that women in Oxford are still not represented 50-50 and so the time is not right to go mixed."

Leading article, page 11

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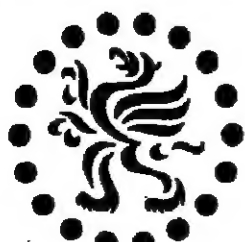
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Mayhew hopes for direct Irish talks within weeks

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

TALKS on a future administration for Northern Ireland will open tomorrow, beginning three months of negotiations designed to produce a replacement for the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the new Northern Ireland secretary, said he hoped the discussions would lead to an accommodation between the political parties over how the province is governed, with more decisions being taken by local politicians rather than government ministers.

Sir Patrick indicated that he expected the province's four main constitutional parties to stop the wrangling that bedevilled earlier stages of the initiative and move swiftly to substantive discussions. He

said he hoped to be able to move to phase two — direct talks between the Irish government and the northern parties — within weeks. At the

second stage, northern unionists will negotiate directly with the Irish government, whose foreign minister made it clear yesterday that Northern Ireland's constitutional position within the United Kingdom will be on the agenda.

Sir Patrick admitted, however, that the British government had no blueprint of its own on how the province should be administered and that if the talks failed it would not be the end of the world as it would continue to be run by direct rule.

He said: "It is an absurdity and an affront to the intelligence of Northern Ireland that even trivial matters should fall for decision by Westminster ministers."



Mayhew: no blueprint

Severn crossing takes toll on drivers

MOTORISTS reacted angrily to new charges on the Severn bridge west-bound into Wales yesterday. A six-mile tailback caused long delays and drivers without enough money for the toll were turned away.

The fact that the route into England is now free failed to ease their tempers. When motorists reached the toll booths they discovered that they were required to pay a return fare regardless of whether they wish to re-enter England by the same route. Drivers who pleaded poverty were promptly turned back, as were those objecting to paying a return fare, while those who argued were threatened with police action. The toll booths have been removed from the east bound carriageway.

Inspector Ian Wilkinson, of Almondsbury motorway police, said: "Some drivers lost their tempers and shouted at my officers and the toll collectors. At one point it looked like it would come to blows but fortunately it didn't go that far. What they don't realise is that the new tolls are approved by the government. There's nothing we can do."

Many drivers said that the new charges were unfair and expensive. In-

A big rise in charges for using the Severn bridge has left motorists fuming in traffic jams, Ray Clancy reports

stead of paying £1 one way, they had to hand over £2.80, while lorry drivers had to pay £2.40 instead of £2 one way. Drivers of small vans had the biggest cause for complaint. Instead of paying the same one-way toll as car drivers they have been put into a small goods vehicles class paying £5.60.

Jennifer Jessop, 50, a teacher from Llantrisant, Mid Glamorgan, said she would be writing to her MP and the bridge authorities to complain about paying £5.60 to bring her small van home over the bridge after taking her two dogs to a show in Hampshire at the weekend. "I don't run a business and I had to pay the same as a minibus licensed to carry 16 people," she said.

David Foice, general manager of Severn River Crossing, the Anglo-French consortium which has been awarded the contract to run the bridge

and build a new £300 million new crossing a few miles downstream, said that only a few motorists were unhappy. "Most drivers seemed to have accepted that it is necessary to pay these increases to enable a second bridge to be built. It is only a vociferous few, mainly the small van drivers, who are against the whole concept."

The company took the decision to have tolls on one side of the bridge to ease delays, he said. An extension of the present toll booth plaza on the westbound side, due for completion within three months, would solve any traffic problems and lead to a quicker crossing.

The RAC said that it had received hundreds of calls from angry motorists. "People are used to having a pocket or so loose change in their car, and being asked for large sums of cash," John Hudson, a spokesman, said. "We fully understand why everyone is so annoyed. It's unfair. The Severn bridge is just another section of the M4 and these tolls should be scrapped."

Man had start

Eubank at crash

THE TIMES TUESDAY APRIL 28 1992

Somerville students stand firm

BY MATTHEW DANKIN
EDUCATION REPORTER

STUDENTS at Somerville college, Oxford, have vowed today that they would press on with legal action to prevent men being admitted to the college after a vote by students to Lord Jenkins, the college visitor, fails on May 11.

Deborah Sherrin, a law student co-ordinating the legal campaign, said a vote by students on Sunday had cleared the way for the campaign to sue the governing body.

Eighty-four per cent of students are said to oppose the decision to admit men after 112 years of single-sex education. Their stand against the governing body has won the support of distinguished graduates of the college such as Shirley Williams and Margaret Thatcher.

The legal campaign alleges that the college cannot make a fundamental change without parliamentary approval and also claims breaches of contract on the grounds that the students had a legitimate expectation to be consulted.

Jane Whittle, president of the college's middle common room, said that feeling among undergraduates and postgraduates continued to run high. "The principal objection is that women in Oxford are still not represented 50-50 and so the time is not right to go mixed."

Leading article, page 11

Man killed in crash had confessed to starting death fire

BY PETER VICTOR

A MAN confessed to starting a fire in Hove which killed five people, hours before he died under the wheels of a lorry.

Trevor Carrington, an unemployed airline steward, used his lighter to set fire to a sofa in the hallway of a block of flats "as a prank" as he left the party in Hove, an inquest was told yesterday.

Police said that Mr Carrington, 38, of Brighton, had attempted to take a drug overdose and slashed his wrists when he was told of the deaths at the party in Hove on Easter Saturday.

Detective superintendent Michael Bennison told the

inquest at Lewes, East Sussex, that Mr Carrington went to woods near Wivelsfield for the suicide attempt.

He stayed there until the following day when he called the emergency services and was admitted to hospital in Haywards Heath on April 19, giving his name as Cameron. On April 21, while still at the hospital, Mr Carrington was visited by his brother and, according to the police, confessed to starting the fire as a prank.

He died later that day in a road accident on the Lindfield to Ardingly Road, Mr Bennison told the inquest. The fire took place over

Easter weekend at an end of terrace property converted into five flats. People trapped in the building leapt 50ft to the pavement below and many were injured.

One of the injured was attending to those on the pavement when he was hit by a falling partygoer.

Three others were trapped in the attic. Lee Wells, 26, and his girlfriend Lisa Anderson, 25, crawled out of the attic window clutching a three-year-old child, climbed on to a balcony and edged their way to an adjoining roof where they waited for more than two hours until firemen were able to carry them to safety.

Thirteen people were taken to hospital after the blaze but most went home after treatment. Damien Barber, one of the survivors at the party, which was attended by about 22 people, said afterwards that he had clambered 40ft down a drainpipe.

Mr Barber, 20, unemployed, said that he was the last of six people to come out alive after battling through choking smoke and climbing down a drainpipe. He was sitting in the living room when somebody shouted "fire".

He said: "At first I thought they were joking but the next thing there was smoke everywhere."

Yesterday's inquest was told that a murder investigation was launched because of the speed with which the fire spread, coupled with the short space of time between witnesses leaving and returning to find the building on fire, because multiple deaths were caused and there were a substantial number of homosexuals at the party, which could have provided a motive.

Detectives set up a confidential telephone line to encourage people to come forward.

Mr Bennison said police had wanted to interview Mr Carrington as part of their enquiries after it was established that he left the party just before the fire started.

He said the dead man apparently went ashen when he learnt of the multiple deaths. Mr Carrington told his brother that he had set fire to the sofa in the hallway as he left the party, Mr Bennison said. "He did this to make those at the party panic and indicated to his brother that it was a prank that went terribly wrong."

The inquest, into the deaths of Mr Carrington, Timothy Sharpe, 28, the party host, Paul Jones, 33, a trainee chef from Brighton, Adrian Johns, 31, unemployed, from Brighton, Andrew Manners, 29, an electrical maintenance engineer from Cheltenham, and Mabel Roberts, 48, a nurse from Colwyn Bay, North Wales, was adjourned to June 3 at Hove Magistrates Court.

Shot man 'had weapons hoard'

BY PAUL WILKINSON

POLICE who stormed the home of a gunman seconds after a marksman had shot him dead recovered six weapons, including axes, a sword and three firearms, although the guns were later discovered to be imitations, an inquest was told yesterday.

Ian Bennett, 24, had used at least one of the guns to threaten armed police when they were called to his flat in Rastick, West Yorkshire, on New Year's day, the inquest in Bradford was told.

After a short siege Mr Bennett was shot dead at his bedroom window by three high velocity rounds fired by a police marksman.

Professor Michael Green, a Home Office pathologist, said that the bullet wounds could indicate that Mr Bennett had been pointing a long-barrelled gun out of the window, but he accepted a suggestion from Terry Munyard, counsel for Mr Bennett's family, that the wounds could also be consistent with him throwing down the weapon.

James Turnbull, the West Yorkshire coroner, told the jury that Mr Bennett had been out drinking for much of New Year's day after his girlfriend had been taken to hospital after apparently attempting suicide. Police were called in after he began a dispute with a taxi driver.

The hearing, expected to last for four weeks, continues today.



Victory smiles: Cheri Rippon with her baby after the hearing yesterday

Sacked rep awarded £8,000

BY LOUISE CARPENTER

A CHEMICAL sales representative sacked for gross misconduct after being accused of having a baby by a member of a rival firm was awarded £8,000 compensation by an industrial tribunal yesterday.

Cheri Rippon, 33, lost her £30,000-a-year job at Executive Contracts, in Hampstead, northwest London, when she refused to sign a contract saying that she would not "become in-

volved" with any other companies.

A few days later she received a dismissal letter for "gross misconduct and breach of loyalty and trust to your fellow directors" after a board meeting investigating her relationship with a business rival. The company said that Miss Rippon was engaged to Peter Hurn, 49, that she was expecting his child and working for his company

Sheen Bright Ltd. Miss Rippon, who, with her six-month-old child, is now living with Mr Hurn, told the tribunal in London that he was neither her fiancé nor the father of her baby and that their relationship was platonic.

Miss Rippon claims that her company fired her to avoid paying maternity leave. The tribunal ruled that the matters had not been investigated properly.

Cheese challenge bites the dust

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

LYMESWOLD. Britain's challenge to such famous French soft cheeses as Brie and Camembert, is to be laid quietly to rest a decade after it was launched with much fanfare at a cost of £5 million.

Dairy Crest, a subsidiary of the Milk Marketing Board, is to close the Lymeswold creamery at Aston, Cheshire, this month with the loss of 38 jobs.

"We created the first new English cheese for 200 years and helped to change English attitudes towards soft cheese," Colleen Amos, Dairy Crest's communications manager, said yesterday. "But we could not sustain demand."

Unveiling the cheese in 1982, Peter Walker, then agriculture minister, declared that it would boost the balance of payments by replacing imports and becoming "one of our most successful cheese exports". Lymeswold enjoyed a short-lived vogue, during which supply could not keep pace with demand, and even appeared fleetingly in France as Westminster Blue. But after reaching a peak of about 2,000 tonnes a year, sales began to slide and never recovered.

Few gourmets will mourn. Simon Hopkinson, chief chef at the Bibendum restaurant in Fulham, London, said: "It was a most dreadful, typical mass-produced cheese, completely without character."

Eubank charged at crash inquest

BY LIN JENKINS

CHRIS Eubank, the boxer, fought for control of his car before it careered off the road and struck and killed a construction worker, an inquest was told yesterday.

Kevin Lawlor, 33, had been working on a new footbridge over a dual carriageway on the A23 at Peas Pottage and was about six yards from the side of the road when he was hit by the Range Rover. Mark Calvert-Lee, West Sussex coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death.

As he appeared for the hearing Mr Eubank was served with a summons to appear before Haywards Heath magistrates on May 21 charged with driving without due care and attention. He followed the advice of his lawyer not to give evidence at the inquest.

Driver error rather than mechanical failure was the main cause of the accident, PC Andrew Clay, who investigated the accident, said. "It is my opinion that the reason for the loss of control of the vehicle lies with the driving," he said.

Two tyres had been over-inflated, but although they would have lightened the steering response, they would not have caused the accident. The hearing at Haywards Heath, West Sussex, heard that Mr Eubank had been following a car carrying his minder during a journey to Gatwick airport on the morning of February 7 to catch a plane to Jamaica. They had plenty time for the flight.

Simon Eubank, one of the boxer's twin brothers who were passengers, said the car appeared to go over some pebbles and stones before it swerved.

"All of a sudden the car started swerving, but I still assumed Chris was in control because there was no panic. It was immediately afterwards, when the car veered off the

road, that we realised he did not have control."

He estimated that they were travelling at around 60mph. "In front of me I saw a pile of bricks and somehow I noticed there was somebody behind the bricks. My senses told me that he was going to be okay, that if we hit the bricks — there were so many there — because he was behind them, he would be okay."

Michelle Harris, who saw the accident, said her attention was drawn to the car when it swerved dramatically. "It looked as though it was fighting to regain control then it went back into the inside lane, then it went off careering into the bridge."

Leslie Brooks, who was driving behind the Range Rover, said both cars were doing about 70mph, when he saw Mr Eubank swerve twice.

"It went straight into the roadworks over on to the left hand side. I saw a workman working."

"Once it hit the workman then it hit the parapet of the bridge."

"Dr Arne Berresford, a pathologist, said Mr Lawlor, of Hassocks, West Sussex, had died of multiple injuries. He would have died immediately.



Eubank did not give evidence after summons

Somerville students stand firm

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA
EDUCATION REPORTER

STUDENTS at Somerville college, Oxford, said yesterday that they would press on with legal action to stop men being admitted, if a petition to Lord Jenkins, the college visitor, fails on May 11. Deborah Sherry, a law student co-ordinating the legal campaign, said a vote by students on Sunday had cleared the way for the campaign to sue the governing body.

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Leading article, page 11

BR leans towards smoking ban

BY MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

SMOKING on trains could be progressively phased out to try to improve the public image of rail travel by providing a cleaner service, a senior British Rail official said yesterday.

Increased complaints from passengers, particularly on first-class InterCity trains where non-smokers sometimes have to share carriages with smoking passengers, is forcing rail managers to consider following the example set by London Transport and banning smoking.

Network SouthEast has already withdrawn smoking compartments on short-distance commuter trains. Many regional transport authorities, including Strathclyde, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, and the West Midlands have banned smoking on health grounds.

A ban is likely to be strenuously resisted, especially on long-distance InterCity journeys, by passengers who smoke. The division earns £150 million a year from passengers who smoke, one-sixth of its total income, which some rail managers are reluctant to risk.

InterCity is being forced to consider installing another door in first-class carriages, costing £10,000 each, to prevent tobacco smoke drifting into non-smoking compartments.

Some managers say it is time for British Rail to ban smoking.

A ban is likely to meet less resistance in the Network SouthEast region, which serves a population of 17 million, because few commuter journeys take more than 90 minutes. Most smokers appear able to go without nicotine for up to an hour and a half without too much discomfort, British Rail said.

Because of the decline in the number of smokers, Network SouthEast has gradually reduced train space for smoking. That decline appears to have levelled at about 15 per cent of all passengers. None of the new Networker trains for north Kent will have smoking compartments.

Smoking was banned on London Underground trains in 1984, and throughout the system in 1987 after the King's Cross fire in which 32 people died. Last year London Transport introduced a no smoking policy on the buses, which seems popular.

Network SouthEast said: "As long as there is a significant group who want to smoke, we will continue to cater for it. But if it got to the point where demand for smoking became so small, we would look at the possibility of further reducing the provision of smoking areas."

Severiano Ballesteros. A strong mind is his secret. A strong watch his choice.

The Times called it "arguably the finest last round in the history of the championship".

The man who played it called it "the best round of my life". Then he added: "So far."

In winning his third British Open Championship, Severiano Ballesteros had displayed, once again, the qualities that have caused so many of his peers to regard him as the finest player in the world.

His game has always been noted for breathtaking drives and the kind of recovery shots

that reveal a man who clearly does not recognise the word "quit".

Since Seve was nine years old, practising clandestine golf strokes after hours on his home Pedrena golf course, his sheer mental stamina has driven him on. Indeed, when someone asked him recently what he thought was the most important characteristic of a would-be champion, Ballesteros said promptly: "A strong mind."

This single-minded search for perfection is reflected in his

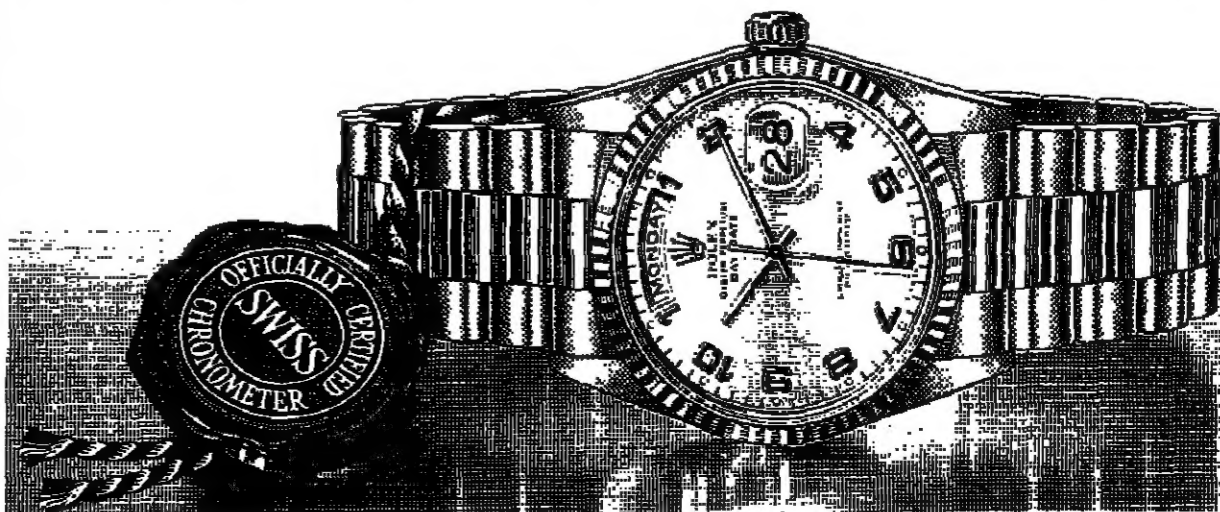
choice of watch: a Rolex Day-Date.

It is a beautiful timepiece; but it is as tough and uncompromising as his game. "It is a very strong watch," he says. "No water or sand can get into it at all."

No wonder. Severiano Ballesteros' Rolex possesses an impenetrable Oyster case and self-winding movement.

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Taylor sworn in as Lord Chief Justice

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LORD Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, pledged the judiciary's determination to "learn lessons from the past" as he swore in Lord Taylor of Gossforth as the new Lord Chief Justice of England yesterday.

Lord Taylor succeeds Lord Lane after spending 12 years as the country's most senior serving judge. Lord Mackay said: "We are determined to learn lessons from the past and, so far as humanly possible, to eradicate such miscarriages of justice for the future."

Lord Taylor did not address the court but later in an interview with the BBC said that he would like people to feel that British justice was "the best in the world. I believe it is, despite the blemishes which have appeared recently, but I am sure there is scope for improving it."

He added: "I have made no secret of the fact that I believe we should probably shed wigs and robes." He said that he thought that there should be consultation and consideration of the alternatives. "One could just have best suits, or the kind of gown that they have in the United States, or various other alternatives. But I would think that the 18th century image which hangs over the law is one of the factors which makes us seem out of touch, although I don't believe we are."

Nearly 80 serving judges gathered in Courtroom four, the Lord Chief Justice's court in the Royal Courts of Justice, for the swearing in ceremony. Those from the Court of Appeal were in full ceremonial black robes trimmed with gold braid, and those from the High Court in red robes trimmed with ermine.

Lord Taylor, watched by his wife and family, sat on the bench flanked by Lord Mackay, Lord Justice Brown, president of the family division, Lord Justice Tasker Watkins, the Lord Chief Justice's deputy, Lord Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, and Lord Justice Nicholls, Vice Chancellor.

Lord Taylor swore an oath of allegiance to the Queen and his oath of office, and was presented with the letters patent of his office by Lord Mackay. He was taking on "an onerous task" with many pressures and challenges, Lord Mackay said.

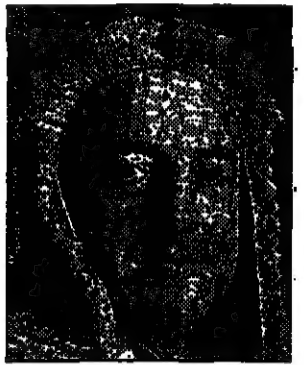
The Lord Chancellor defended the judiciary in the face of criticism. "Much of it is uninformed," he said. "Members of the judiciary take these matters very seriously as does the government. I am anxious, however, that people should not seek to attribute blame to parts of the criminal justice system and also that a few well publicised cases should not be taken completely out of context."

He gave a warning, however, against complacency. The findings of a Royal Commission on criminal justice were awaited. The judiciary had a key role to play in debating and implementing its recommendations.

Letters, page 11
Law Times, pages 23, 25



Lord Mackay: learning from the past



Lord Taylor: sees scope for improvement

Labour attacks legal aid rule change

By OUR LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour Party has accused the Lord Chancellor's department of apparently acting unlawfully with its new requirement that defendants who are in jobs must produce wage slips for 13 weeks' work before they will be granted legal aid.

John Fraser MP, front bench opposition legal affairs spokesman, says that the circular to magistrates' courts has led to defendants remanded in custody being refused legal aid because they cannot provide slips.

MP, the new parliamentary secretary at the Lord Chancellor's department, Mr Fraser said: "The department's attempt to impose a requirement that wage slips be produced is not only impractical, it also appears to be unlawful." The legal aid regulations did not contain any such requirement.

The Law Society has called on officials to declare the legal basis for the new requirement, which justices' clerks have no discretion to waive. The Lord Chancellor's department said yesterday it was considering the letters as a matter of urgency. The circular was issued on April 1.



Fasting food: The Princess Royal, president of Save the Children, takes avoiding action as Manuel (Andrew Sachs) from TV's Fawlty Towers attends her at the Skip Lunch Save A Life lunch in London yesterday. The princess urged the public to miss its midday meal and donate the cash to the charity

Branson divides economy class

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE growing number of business travellers flying economy class has prompted Richard Branson to install a new class on his eight Virgin jumbo jets, separating passengers who have paid the full economy fare from package holiday-makers and leisure travellers.

The new section of the aircraft — known as Mid Class — will be curtained off and available only to those paying full economy fares, not those taking advantage of the cheap fares.

The £5 million scheme, designed to match rivals' business class but with fares 60 per cent lower, will be in full operation by July. It will provide greater

leg room and a newly designed seat with a video screen built into the armrest.

Mr Branson said yesterday: "At least 25 per cent of business travellers are now flying economy because their companies are cutting costs. Yet if they want full flexibility and pay the full economy fare, say £350, they can find themselves sitting next to someone who has paid only £99. Our research has shown that they want to be away from children, in their own exclusive cabin with space to work or relax. More seat room is a priority for 91 per cent but they also demand value for money," he said.

Initially there will be 38 seats in Mid Class with the number of economy seats reduced from 320 to 270. At present only about three per cent of Virgin's

economy passengers pay the full economy fare. The new service will, it is hoped, increase Virgin's yield by as much as 10 per cent.

A survey by the International Air Transport Association last week showed that 30 per cent of business passengers had been forced to cut their travel budgets during the past six months. Virgin believes that many long-haul business passengers will happily pay a full economy price if they can enjoy some benefits of business class travel. If the service proves a success, Virgin plans to offer up to six classes and standards of service.

Egalitarianism bites the dust
page 10

£60,000 awarded for strain injury

A former car worker was yesterday awarded £59,617 compensation for a repetitive strain injury which she said prevented her from ironing or gardening because of the pain in her arms and thumbs.

Jane Inskip, 63, who worked as a machine operator at Vauxhall's Luton plant for 13 years, took voluntary redundancy in 1986 after suffering from the injury. Luton County Court was told.

Mrs Inskip, who lives with her son near Aberdeen, said that she had been fighting for compensation since leaving work. Colin Edinger, a solicitor for the Union which took up her case, said that the settlement could be the largest involving an RSI case. Vauxhall is to appeal.

Car withdrawn

A Lamborghini Espada owned by the former Beagle Paul McCartney was withdrawn from sale at an auction in Morphet, Northumberland, after bidding stopped at £12,500, well short of its expected £30,000.

Axe deaths link

Tests on a bloodstained axe found earlier this month by a lake in Lincolnshire confirmed that it was the weapon used in the killings in the city of Fred Maltby, 75, and Joe Rylatt, 61.

River speeders

Police have caught 185 drivers speeding on the new Queen Elizabeth II bridge over the Thames at Dartford, Essex, since checks began on April 10.

Body on track

The body of a man aged about 25 was found on railway tracks at Reading, Berkshire. Police believe he was hit by a train during the night.

Cells reopen

A wing at Dartmoor prison, wrecked in riots two years ago in which a prisoner died, has been reopened.

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Tin put at EC

By R AND MIC

BRITAIN has been preparing for the EC Court for a long time. EC environmental law is not new. It is a part of the EC legal system. The EC Court has been dealing with environmental cases since 1988. The EC Court has been dealing with environmental cases since 1988.

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Faults in foreign ships tre

By NICHOLAS W

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Good wicket: Robert

Willow fuel of

By M AGRICULTURE

ON THE banks of Blackwater, River Kelvedon, southwest of Chester, Essex, Robert Goodwin is taking part in an experiment that will provide a source of eco-friendly energy. He has planted a willow grove on the banks of the river. He has planted a willow grove on the banks of the river.

Mr Goodwin is one of five farmers in south England chosen by the government to test "agro-forestry", which involves growing species of willow and poplar per acre. After a year the saplings are cut back to the stumps "stool", from which multi-stemmed willows can then be harvested repeatedly. The wood is dried and cut into chips and then used for fuel.

Most of the 185-acre farm is planted with wheat, barley and oilseed rape, but like his father before him, Mr Goodwin has always reserved a few acres for willow trees for firewood and more recent for agro-forestry. He has underplanted the willow trees with a few acres of agro-forestry. He has underplanted the willow trees with a few acres of agro-forestry.

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Tin mine leak puts Britain at risk of EC censure

BY TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS AND MICHAEL MCCARTHY IN LONDON

BRITAIN faces four more prosecutions in the European Court for allegedly breaking EC environmental laws: at a Cornish tin mine and a Scottish heather moorland and in the control and monitoring of pollution.

The most serious allegations concern the Wheal Jane tin mine near Falmouth, which was abandoned last year and in January began leaking millions of gallons of water polluted with dangerous heavy metals into the Carnon River and the Fal estuary.

Tomorrow the 17-member

European Commission will decide whether to instigate infringement proceedings against the government for allegedly contravening EC surface and groundwater pollution laws by failing to prevent the Wheal Jane spillage.

The commission will also consider the case of Glen Dye, a 2,800-acre heather moorland in the Scottish Highlands which is a breeding site for protected birds including the merlin and hen harrier. Brussels officials suggest that the Forestry Commission, which gave a grant for tree planting, should first have carried out an environmental impact assessment.

The other two cases concern the government's methods of reducing sulphur pollution from power stations, and monitoring nitrogen dioxide pollution in the atmosphere. In the first case, commission lawyers suggest that Britain is obliged to use more new technology as the government relies on imports of low-sulphur coal to cut emissions down. In the second, it is suggested that Britain has an inadequate monitoring station network.

The complaints are being put forward by DGII, the environment directorate of the commission run by Carlo Ripa di Meana. If the commissioners decide to institute proceedings by sending an initial warning letter, it will be a serious embarrassment for the government.

Britain is already facing two series of EC environmental prosecutions: over drinking water and disputed construction projects including the extension of the M3 motorway through Twyford Down in Hampshire and the east London river crossing road through Ordes Wood.

An environment department spokesman said: "We are aware that these matters are on the agenda and we have sent reasoned responses to all these points."

Magistrate forged letters to council

A MAGISTRATE and former army officer forged letters to try to ensure that a diversion of a footpath near his home went ahead, a court was told yesterday.

Geoffrey Jenkins, formerly a lieutenant-colonel, wanted the route changed because the public strayed off the footpath beside his home at Abbey Farm, Montacute, Somerset, causing annoyance and loss of privacy. However, two people objected, which could have led to a public enquiry and delays, magistrates at Bridgwater, Somerset, were told.

Jenkins typed letters purporting to be from the objectors, withdrawing the objections, John Aldred, for the prosecution, said. As a result, Somerset County Council confirmed the new right of way. One of the objectors, however, realised that something was amiss and contacted the council, which rescinded its decision.

Jenkins, who subsequently resigned after being a JP at Yeovil for ten years, admitted making and using a false instrument. He was fined £500 with £38 costs.



Scene-shifters: Sam Wanamaker, the film and theatre director, and his daughter Zoe, an actress, with a 150-year-old oak tree felled in the Forest of Dean yesterday to help the reconstruction of the Globe Theatre, London

Violent film earns TV firm a rebuke

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A TELEVISION film about a psychopathic murderer's pursuit of a female reporter in a hospital has been rebuked by the Broadcasting Standards Council for exploiting women's fear of rape and mutilation.

The ruling against Yorkshire Television for its *Visiting Hours* programme, shown in February, comes just days after research by the council disclosed that violence against women on television made most women viewers feel more vulnerable to attack.

A women from North Yorkshire had complained to the council about "horrific acts of violence" in the film, which she said exploited the vulnerability of hospital patients.

The council said that *Visiting Hours*, set in America, was unjustifiably violent, and it ordered Yorkshire to publish a summary of the adjudication in a mass-circulation newspaper. "Violence should not be used as the means of sustaining the interest of the audience in the absence of other forms of appeal," the council ruled. The context in which *Visiting Hours* was set

could not justify the level of violence.

Yorkshire, which broadcast the film at 10.40pm, said that although the violence had been "realistic, hard and unsanitised", it was neither titillating nor voyeuristic. The ITV company argued that it was particularly justified because the woman involved was not a passive victim; she eventually fought back and caused the death of the psychopath.

Yorkshire said yesterday: "We are disappointed at the BSC's ruling — we thought it was a gritty, realistic portrayal. But we obviously fell on the wrong side of the divide over what is acceptable and we will watch it more closely in future."

Channel 4 was also censured for showing *But He Loves Me*, which dealt with violence in an obsessive teenage relationship, at the unsuitable time of 5pm. Channel 4 said, however, that the film treated the issue sensitively and was a valid subject to tackle when teenagers would be viewing.

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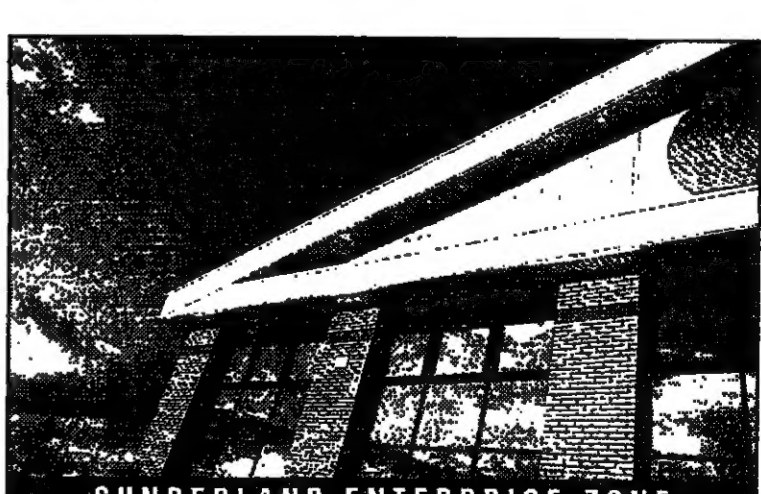
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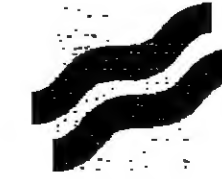
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THE NEW NORTH EAST



Good wicket: Robert Goodwin among his willows

Willow scores as fuel of the future

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

ON THE banks of the Blackwater River near Kelvedon, southwest of Colchester, Essex, Robert Goodwin is taking part in an experiment that could provide a source of ecologically-friendly energy and offer hope to farmers who dislike the idea of "setting aside" their land.

Mr Goodwin is one of five farmers in southern England chosen by the government to test "arable coppice", which involves planting up to 8,000 fast-growing species of willow and poplar per acre.

After a year the saplings are cut back to the stump or "stool", from which the multi-stemmed regrowth can then be harvested repeatedly. The wood is dried and cut into chips and can then be used for fuel.

Most of the 185-acre farm is planted with wheat, barley and oilseed rape, but, like his father before him, Mr Goodwin has always reserved a few acres to grow willow trees for cricket bats and more recently baskets. He has undertaken to put down 25 acres to arable coppice over the ten years of the trial and is eligible for a subsidy from the Forestry Commission comparable to the "set-aside" grant he could have got for leaving his land fallow.

"We planted the first five acres in February, half with willow and half with poplar.

We will cut back to the stump next winter and use the severed shoots as planting material. We hope to harvest our first crop three years after that. By then each willow stool should have thrown a regrowth of up to six stems, each about 15ft long and as thick as your wrist."

A crop can probably be taken every three to five years for up to 30 years before re-planting will be needed. Pesticide and fertiliser input should be low. Arable coppice is estimated to be able to produce in Britain the equivalent of six million tonnes of oil, worth £700 million, a year. Emission of carbon dioxide, one of the "greenhouse" gases blamed for global warming, is cancelled out by the amount that the original trees had absorbed. Coppice would be an option on large areas of wetter, medium-quality land in southern England where cereal-growing is possible only with European Community subsidies that are being withdrawn.

At present, woodfuel cannot compete on price with oil and coal. But if farmers formed co-operatives to share the costs of harvesting and set up their own combustion plants they might be able to supply hot air and water to local abattoirs, dairies, factories and food processing plants at attractive rates.



Speaker cornered: Betty Boothroyd addresses the Commons, feigns reluctance to accept her new job, then takes the chair and settles in with the first of a thousand cries of "Order, order"

Betty Boothroyd crowns her parliamentary career

BY ROBERT MORGAN, PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

"FOR me the Commons has never been just a career, it is my life," Betty Boothroyd, said yesterday as she became the first woman Speaker and the highest commoner in the land. "I pray that I shall justify its confidence and I pledge that I shall do all in my power to preserve the Speaker's office and its traditions," she told applauding MPs.

As Parliament assembled for the first time since the election, MPs were summoned to the Lords where a royal commission ordered them to elect a Speaker. On returning to the Commons, with Sir Edward Heath, the father of the House, presiding, they set about the delicate task.

The election turned out to be good humoured and without rancour. The proceedings started with Sir Michael Neuber, Conservative MP for Romford, moving that Peter Brooke be elected Speaker. He said that since his election 15 years ago, Mr Brooke had fulfilled with distinction a number of ministerial posts. The former Northern Ireland secretary, he said, would bring "dignity, erudition and wit" to what was often described as the

"loneliest job in Parliament". After others had spoken of Mr Brooke's virtues and fitness for the Chair, Tony Benn, the veteran Labour MP for Chesterfield, said: "We must not have another little cosy election for the Speaker without recognising that these are very difficult times. We need a reforming Speaker." He spoke of the need for a Speaker to defend the rights of those represented in Parliament.

Order must prevail

AS THE 155th Speaker of the House of Commons Betty Boothroyd inherits a salary (£59,914) second only to that of the prime minister, a large house in the Palace of Westminster, a state coach, and a job in which nine of her predecessors died violent deaths.

She becomes the highest commoner in the land. Her job is to be president and spokesman of the Commons. She may not speak in a debate nor vote in a division except when the voting is equal.

Peter de Montfort was the

first Speaker in 1258, when the Speaker's job was to convey the view of the Commons to the Crown and he was often viewed as the sovereign's spy. Four Speakers perished on this task during the Wars of the Roses.

The job is still a tough one, not least because the cry of "order, order" has made the Speaker among the most famous television personalities in the land. Under the rules, the cameras have to switch to the Speaker whenever there is an altercation on which she may have to rule.

who are looking for a fraternity in suffering I think could well consider her merits."

Gwyneth Dunwoody, Labour MP for Crewe and Nantwich and long-time friend of Miss Boothroyd, said: "It is absolutely essential that we have a woman who comes from one of the tribes of the United Kingdom that is well known both for its ability to speak its mind plainly and with wit — I refer to those of course of West Yorkshire."

After about an hour's debate and with no other nominations being made, MPs divided and voted by 372 votes to 238 in favour of Miss Boothroyd. Mr Brooke was among the first to congratulate her. She was also congratulated by John Major and the other party leaders.

Mr Kinnock pointed out that it had taken six centuries and 154 previous Speakers before the Commons had elected a woman — hardly overnight success for women's rights.

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Peter Riddell, page 10
Diary, page 10
Leading article, page 11
Matthew Parris, page 14
L&T section, page 5



Campbell: unhappy at nationalist stance

SNP poll tactics criticised

BY KERRY GILL

LABOUR and the Liberal Democrats yesterday criticised the Scottish National Party for its strategy of trying to turn the Scottish district council elections on May 7 into a referendum on the country's future constitution. The SNP is fielding a record 850 candidates.

As the nationalists, Liberal Democrats and Labour launched their election manifestos, Menzies Campbell, MP for North East Fife, and the Liberal Democrats' local government spokesman, said that such a move was "potentially extremely damaging" to the home rule cause. It was wrong to try to persuade people that, instead of voting for councillors best able to look after local interests, they should use the elections as a second bite at the cherry of a general election.

Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, said he was determined to keep the constitutional issue at the top of the agenda. The SNP believes the elections will give people the chance of a "super-vote" by backing the party fighting for local services as well as demanding that the public should be allowed to decide the country's future.

Anne McGuire, Labour's Scottish chairman, said: "The current constitutional debate cannot be a cover for attacking local government."

Labour contenders in frantic hunt for votes

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR'S leadership contenders were frantically searching for support last night after moves by the party's most senior officers to end the confusion surrounding the contest.

With nominations closing at 5.15pm today, the campaign teams working for candidates in both the leadership and deputy races were striving to ensure that they had the 55 votes required to enter the contest proper.

Doubts over the ability of some candidates to reach the threshold were reinforced yesterday when MPs were given

a ruling that means that the camps cannot be sure that they still have the backers who have already pledged themselves. One national executive member called it a "hysterical mess."

Larry Whitty, Labour's general secretary, told a packed meeting of MPs at Westminster that they would be entitled to withdraw their existing nomination papers and to substitute another. The move is designed to allow MPs who think that their first choice is unlikely to clear the first hurdle to back one with more chance. By 6.30pm

several MPs had switched their votes, party sources said.

Amid widespread fears that the leadership contest is bringing the party into disrepute, Neil Kinnock appealed to MPs to conduct themselves with the "greatest cohesion and self-discipline" throughout the parliament. He defended party officials from criticism that they had changed the rules in mid-contest. They had acted in absolute good faith, he said.

The signs last night were that there will be a straight fight for the leadership between John Smith, who has experienced no difficulty in reaching the required level of nominations, and Bryan Gould. It seemed unlikely that Ken Livingstone, the third potential candidate, would get near the threshold.

The most likely scenario for the deputy contest appeared to be a race between Margaret Beckett, Mr Gould and John Prescott, the shadow transport secretary, although it appeared that only Mrs Beckett could be fully confident of reaching the required level.

Ann Clwyd, the party's development spokesman, and Bernie Grant, left-wing MP for Tottenham, were expected to have difficulty, and for Mr Gould and Mr Prescott it appeared likely to be a closely-run affair.

By late last night it seemed that Mr Gould would pass the hurdle, although in the frenzied atmosphere in the party it was admitted that some of Mr Smith's supporters had considered changing to Mr Gould to ensure that a contest took place.

Reaction to the ruling were mixed. The main critic was Mr Livingstone, who said: "The party machine is encouraging people to withdraw nominations from people like myself and Bernie Grant to get Bryan Gould and others over the threshold."

Kinnock aides blamed for defeat

BY OUR CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

RECRIMINATIONS over Labour's election effort have erupted with allegations of an attempt to vilify some of Neil Kinnock's close aides who played key roles during the campaign.

Labour insiders say that shadow cabinet sources are trying to cast as scapegoats Patricia Hewitt, Mr Kinnock's former press secretary and deputy director of the Institute of Public Policy Research, and Philip Gould, head of the shadow communications agency, the body often seen as a driving force in Mr Kinnock's efforts to modernise the party's image.

Ms Hewitt and Mr Gould worked closely during the campaign and are said to have been conveniently seized upon as "whipping boys" for mistakes made during the election by politicians, say Labour sources.

They see the criticism as a prelude to a move to persuade the new Labour leader, almost certainly John Smith, to drop the services of the agency and return power to the

Walworth Road headquarters.

Ms Hewitt is in Australia but her colleagues have been upset at the alleged smear campaign being directed at both her and Philip Gould, whose partnership with Peter Mandelson, Labour's former director of communications and now the MP for Hartlepool, was an important factor in the professionalisation brought to campaigning.

Ms Hewitt is a known enthusiast for proportional representation but colleagues are angered that she is being blamed in reports for placing electoral reform high on Mr Kinnock's agenda in the final days of the campaign. Internal party sources say the decision to raise electoral reform was not the responsibility of Ms Hewitt but the politicians running the campaign.

Labour sources believe that the unsourced attacks on Mr Gould and Ms Hewitt mean that the "Kinnock-Mandelson revolution" in Labour presentation methods is under threat.

MPs learn the first house rule: find a desk and a telephone

Nicholas Wood and Philip Webster on the tension in the Commons as MPs attended the new session of Parliament

A SENSE of bewilderment was one of the few unifying themes at Westminster yesterday as the new House of Commons gathered. Of the 651 MPs, 140 were entering the chamber for the first time or were returning from the political wilderness.

The difficulties of securing an office, a telephone and a secretary in the cramped quarters of the palace were compounded by the fact that MPs were plunged into choosing a speaker. Newcomers who scarcely knew how to make their way from the underground car park were being expected to elect their umpire for the next five years.

Peter Luff, who succeeds Peter Walker as MP for Worcester, said: "I have never cast my vote in an election about which I knew less about the issues than this one. Never. I haven't the slightest idea about what qualities make a good speaker or what qualities the individuals putting themselves forward have to be speaker. It's quite mad."

Nigel Evans, who reclaimed Ribbles Valley from the Liberal Democrats, said: "I have been sorting my mail out in the car." Compared with many of his colleagues, Mr Evans appeared to be doing well. He has half a secretary, shared with Rod Richards, the Tory victor in Clywd North West, and half a researcher, shared with

Alistair Burt, who clung on to Bury North. The car is a Jaguar. Mr Evans said it was likely to prove more spacious and comfortable than any office he might be given.

Robert Spink, the Tory victor in Castle Point. Sir Bernard Braine's old seat, was rudely interrupted early yesterday when Michael Jopling, a former chief whip, marched in, claimed right of abode and ordered him, his secretary, the word processor, the dictaphone and a pile of mail out into the committee corridor. "I feel very privileged to represent my 87,500 constituents," Mr Spink said. "But I didn't expect them all to write to me in the first week."



Peter Luff: election for speaker "quite mad"

Alan Duncan, Tory MP for Rutland and Melton, whose Gayfers Street house near the Commons was used as the centre for John Major's leadership campaign, says the new intake, totalling 63 on the Tory side, is likely to be "fairly Euro-sceptic". With a majority of only 21, this could cause the prime minister some anxious moments when the Maastricht treaty comes up for ratification before the summer recess. But the latest Tory recruits are likely to be less zealous than their 1983 and 1987 predecessors and they generally share Mr Major's concern with the quality of public services.

The composition of



Glenda Jackson: new recruit for Labour

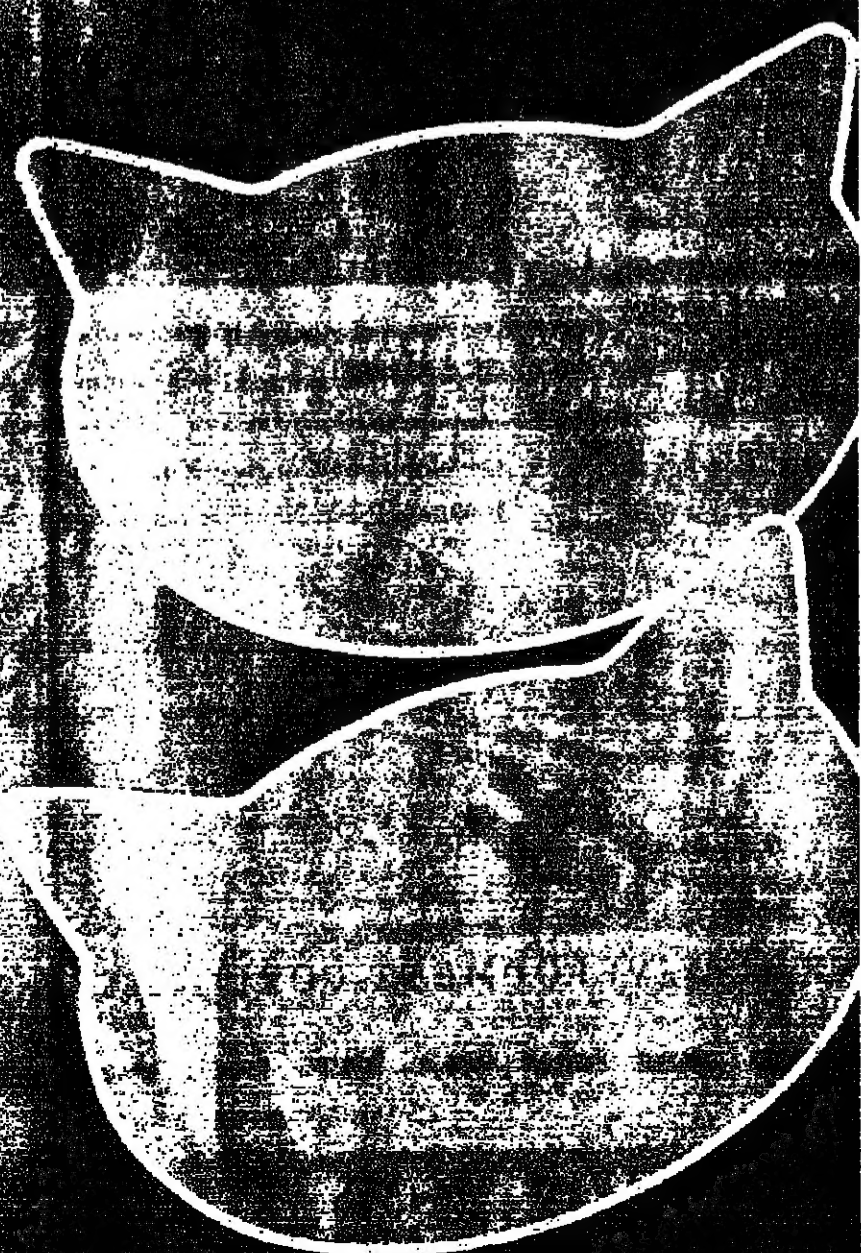
Labour's new intake indicates that the hard left will be further marginalised. Most of 69 new members of the parliamentary Labour party (PLP) are expected to reinforce the dominance of the leadership, coming broadly from the centre or mainstream left represented by Neil Kinnock.

Although John Smith, Mr Kinnock's likely successor, is from the right of the party, his leadership stance will almost certainly be one that the majority of the newcomers support. Five members of the far left Campaign Group either retired or lost their seats at the election, and its regular strength is likely to be down to about 25 MPs.

The best known of Labour's new faces in parliament are Glenda Jackson, the actress, who won Hampstead and Highgate, and Peter Mandelson, the party's former director of communications, for Hartlepool.

There are 36 women in the PLP. Those expected to make an early mark include Jane Kennedy, the Nupe official who defeated the expelled Terry Fields at Liverpool Broadgreen, Tessa Jowell, a social administrator who took Dulwich, Bridget Prentice, a teacher who defeated Colin Moynihan, the energy minister, at Lewisham East and Angela Eagle, a Co-Op service-union official, who beat Lyn Ja Chalker at Wallasey.

What would cats buy?



whiskas

Makeshift council will try to govern from Kabul

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

FLYING the new Afghan flag, a convoy of vehicles carrying Mujahidin commanders, politicians and intellectuals left the Pakistani border city of Peshawar en route to Kabul yesterday in the hope of setting up a makeshift government.

The body, which is being called a transitional ruling council, will attempt to govern what little of the country might still be governable from the beleaguered capital. It will have little role to play while fighting continues.

The Pakistani government announced that Afghan political parties in Peshawar had reached a peace agreement that supposedly included Oulbuddin Hekmatyar, the hardliner whose forces continued to pound the city for the second day yesterday with artillery and tank-fire. There was no immediate indication whether Mr Hekmatyar accepted the deal but there is often a chasm between what he says and does.

Burma to take back refugees

FROM AHMED FAZI IN DHAKA

BURMA agreed yesterday to take back tens of thousands of the Burmese Muslim refugees who have fled to Bangladesh in recent months to escape alleged widespread atrocities at home. Bangladesh said it would sign an agreement with Burma today on the early repatriation of the refugees living in refugee camps in southeastern Bangladesh. "Repatriation of the refugees will start very soon," the Bangladesh foreign ministry said.

A second agreement, on how the refugees will be repatriated under UN High Commission for Refugees supervision, will also be signed today after the final round of talks between Ohn Gyaaw, the visiting Burmese foreign minister, and A.S.M. Mostafizur Rahman, his Bangladeshi counterpart.

The agreements come after four days of talks between senior Burmese and Bangladeshi officials in Dhaka. Rangoon has agreed to take back all the refugees who are able to prove their residence in Burma, officials said. About 225,000 Muslim refugees crossed into Bangladesh from the bordering Arakan province, claiming torture and rape by the Buddhist Burmese army. Burma's ruling military junta denied that its army had committed excesses and said the refugees were illegal settlers fleeing from routine checks.

Border tension mounted as Burma began mobilising troops last January triggering an army alert in Bangladesh. The present negotiations were held against the backdrop of a UN initiative for a peaceful settlement of the refugee problem.

A 19th century British-built fort, Bala Hassar, which looks down into the Logar valley to the south of Kabul, saw fierce fighting throughout yesterday. Forces loyal to Ahmad Shah Masood pounded Mr Hekmatyar's position from it.

For 150 years the fort has played a crucial role in battles for Kabul, whoever controls it controls the city. It is located on a rise above a poor Hazara suburb called Chandawal in the southeast of the capital, where families live in old shipping containers and makeshift mud dwellings.

As the bombing continued, people threw themselves to the ground and some were hit by shrapnel. Machinegun bursts and rifle fire, irrelevant though it was, added to the terror of families huddled in corners. Enrico Cappozzo, an Italian television cameraman, was hit in the head by shrapnel. The Red Cross hospital said he was out of danger after an emergency operation.

The battle for Bala Hassar went on late into the evening. Fighter planes flew overhead, flown by air force pilots who have switched loyalties from the old government to the Mujahidin. General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the northern-based militia commander who heads a powerful

alliance of army, militia and Mujahidin, poured men into the city aboard Russian-made Antonov transporters. Military analysts estimate that he has up to 30,000 men at his immediate disposal.

Fights went on inside the city all day. Outside the ministry of the interior building, which Hekmatyar's forces control, Mujahidin fighters wandered around firing into the air to assert territorial control. It was evident, however, that they were reluctant to fire on each other. The bunkered Indian Embassy is almost opposite the Indians are among 500 foreigners still in the capital.

The mission from Peshawar is headed by Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, a moderate Pashtun leader. The proposed 50-man interim council, which is meant to last for two months, will attempt to hand over power to an interim government that is in turn supposed to govern for another four months.

Hekmatyar's office in Peshawar said it would have nothing to do with the plan and that it would halt the convoy of council members before it reached the capital.



Masood: holds the key fort of Bala Hassar



Stairway to power: one of the mujahidin loyal to General Abdul Rashid Dostum climbing the main staircase of Kabul's presidential palace yesterday

Assad expected to lift travel restrictions on Syrian Jews

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM AND JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Assad of Syria is expected to make an important gesture to Israel this week when he announces the lifting of travel restrictions on Syria's 4,000-strong Jewish community.

The move is likely to coincide with peace negotiations in Washington between Israel and its Arab neighbours. It is seen as an attempt to improve the Syrian leader's standing in the West and to reciprocate with a confidence-building measure of its own.

President Assad's decision was first revealed last week in Damascus when he met chief rabbi Albert Hamra, the head of the Syrian Jewish community, and assured him that the strict travel regulations on Jews leaving the country would be removed. "At this stage we have only received a verbal assurance but we expect within four or five days to receive an official announcement in writing from President Assad," Rabbi Hamra said. All Syrian nationals currently require an exit visa to leave their country, but Jewish citizens face additional travel restrictions. For instance, a Syrian Jew wishing to travel abroad is usually required to leave a financial deposit and some family members behind as a guarantee of return.

Although Israel yesterday remained sceptical about President Assad's motives and trustworthiness, the move will certainly help to improve the atmosphere be-

tween the two neighbours, the chief protagonists in the Arab-Israeli conflict. It also appears to conform to a recent pattern of friendly gestures between the two states.

Most recently, the Syrian authorities displayed unusual sensitivity to their Jewish minority when last week, during the Jewish Passover holiday, they ordered the release of two Jewish brothers who had been imprisoned since 1987. For its part, Israel earlier this month dispatched navy ships to help a Syrian freighter in distress in the eastern Mediterranean. The ship was towed to the port of Haifa, repaired and sent on its way. Earlier this year Israel allowed a Syrian military helicopter to fly a resupply mission to a Syrian army post stranded by heavy snow in the Golan Heights.

The Middle East peace talks resumed in Washington yesterday amid signs that Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, has instructed his delegation to offer the Palestinians municipal elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Falling far short of Palestinian demands for full self-government in the occupied territories, the proposal has been designed with the June Israeli election in mind. With his Likud party running well behind in the opinion polls, Mr Shamir needs to appeal to moderate voters while keeping the support of rightwingers opposed to any compromises.

Members of the Palestin-

Jackson threat alarms Clinton campaign team

Clinton aides, trying to avoid the Jackson connection, hope his latest move is a last desperate throw. Peter Stothard, US Editor, writes from Philadelphia

THE Rev Jesse Jackson staked a menacing claim to the Democratic vice-presidential candidacy yesterday, threatening to react against Bill Clinton's bid for the White House if he was "ignored or rejected".

Speaking on the eve of today's Pennsylvania primary, he said he was "ready for an opportunity to serve" but he might withdraw his support for the ticket if he was not a member of it. He called himself the "running mate of the party", referring to his two past unsuccessful bids for the presidency and his support for the main candidates in this year's campaign.

The news was greeted with public politeness and private horror by the Clinton campaign, which sees benefit only in outmanoeuvring Mr Jackson, not in joining its forces with him. "We have plenty of time after Pennsylvania for that decision," an official said.

Senior advisers to Mr Clinton want a non-political figure to be vice-presidential candidate. This is both to counter the potential appeal of Ross Perot, the Texas billionaire and third party candidate, and also to avoid having to reject Mr Jackson in favour of another politician. The Jackson platform is seen as being even better designed to offend the American middle class voter than the Clinton campaign is planned to attract it.

Mr Jackson said yesterday that he was "reaching out" to those groups, including Jews and supporters of Israel, whom he has offended in the past. "I apologise for any offence I may have caused," he said.

For Mr Clinton's aides, whose New York strategy last month was carefully laid down in order to avoid the Jackson connection, no apology is likely to be enough. They hope that yesterday's move will turn out to be a desperate last throw rather than a serious source of future trouble.

The Pennsylvania campaign had been mostly calm until yesterday's intervention by Mr Jackson. In fact, only certain parts of Bill Clinton are still fighting primary battles: his tired vocal chords, aching right arm and expanding stomach are all being operated by an automatic pilot somewhere deep in the candidate's brain. Last night, while these battered parts were making a last appeal for votes that have mostly been won, the candidate's heart and mind were on the main battle still to come — that against President Bush in November.

Mr Clinton's most noticeable aide this week has not been his pollster or policy director but his throat doctor, a figure whose one command is "don't". Yesterday Mr Clinton disobeyed this instruction as little as possible, delivering a familiar eye-of-poll address beneath the giant statue of William Penn at City Hall, and leaving his television commercials to do the hard work of delivering the faithful to the polling booths. A few of the faithful may be all that will be necessary in a low-powered primary like this where turnout is expected to be "light".

He promised to make it "fun to be an American again" by injecting a new sense of national purpose into the economy. He said that if he were elected there would be an end to the policies that for ten years had "favoured the rich".

Jerry Brown, who has irritated Philadelphians by calling their city "worse than Calcutta", has been eclipsed by interest in Mr Perot. He is predicted to perform poorly today, not least because the American press and television find it hard to concentrate on more than one outsider at a time.

Mr Brown had already asked Mr Jackson to be his running mate and suffered for it in New York. Yesterday he praised Mr Jackson's comments.

PEOPLE

Deng will crush democrats

Deng Xiaoping, China's paramount leader, said force will be used to crush any democratic movement as at Tiananmen Square in 1989. An article in the *People's Daily* confirmed that his recent calls for reform will be strictly confined to the economic sphere and that no challenge to the political monopoly of the Communist party will be tolerated.

For the first time a poet in Israel has been convicted of a crime for his works when a court found Shafik Habib, 51, an Israeli Arab, guilty of fomenting violence in a collection of poems that praised the Palestinian intifada. He was fined £1,750 and given three-years' probation.

New statues and public portraits will be unveiled in dozens of Iraqi cities and towns to mark the 55th birthday of President Saddam Hussein today. A million youth will pledge loyalty in ceremonies around the country.

Toots Thielemans, who turned the harmonica into a full-blown jazz instrument, turns 70 tomorrow. But friends Quincy Jones and Ray Brown could not wait that long and joined European jazz celebrities to pay tribute to the Belgian musician. Ray Charles sent a videotaped message saying, "You really 70, man? I cannot believe it."

Romania's former King Michael, 70, received an enthusiastic welcome when he visited the royal tombs west of Bucharest. He was visibly moved as crowds, estimated at about 50,000, shouted "We love you, your majesty" and "Michael, King of Romanians".

Barbra Streisand celebrated her 50th birthday with a party attended by about 350 guests, among whom were Tom Hanks, Goldie Hawn, Nick Nolte, Meryl Streep and Jon Peters.

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BEST FEATURE/DOCUMENTARY Acting Up BBC Radio 3	BEST ACTRESS Harriet Walter for "Medea" BBC Radio 3	SPECIAL SONY AWARD BBC World Service Managing Director John Tusa
THE SOCIETY OF AUTHORS DRAMA AWARD Lavender Song BBC Radio 4	BEST ACTOR Tom Courtenay for "Flowers for Algernon" BBC Radio 4	
BEST SPECIALIST MUSIC Out on Blue Sea BBC Radio 1		

BBC

RADIO AT ITS BEST

Winnie Mandela turns on charm

WINNIE Mandela was back in the South African headlines yesterday after a bravura performance on television in which she showed a demure, sympathetic, almost schoolgirlish charm. The interview marked another stage in her fight to re-establish herself as a political force.

She denied, or declined to talk about, the web of brutality and corruption that led to her prison sentence for kidnapping and assault, her separation from Nelson Mandela, her husband and president of the African National Congress, and her resignation from her job as head of the social welfare department within the ANC. But she left viewers in no doubt that she intends to continue her career as spokesman for the angry and dispossessed on the militant fringes of the main black movement.

It is also clear that if she can claw back towards her former status as "mother of the nation" she will be a severe embarrassment to the mainstream leaders of the ANC, and inevitably

ANC militants still have a champion in their leader's estranged wife, writes Michael Hamlyn in Johannesburg

will provoke hostility from the white community towards the process of reconciliation and political renewal now painfully under way in the country.

Her battle to show that she has a political personality quite separate from that of her husband has taken her on a whirlwind tour of trouble spots since her resignation just over a week ago. Since she was written off then as a political nonentity she has appeared at the scenes of township violence, berating the government and the Inkatha Freedom Party, and fulminating against the negotiations between the political leaders in the Convention for a Democratic South Africa.

She popped up after brutality and a series of shootings in East Rand squatter camps, she comforted the bereaved after incidents in Soweto, out-

side Johannesburg. She sheltered one of the victims of a vicious raid in Sharpeville. Last week she told the South African Press Association: "We are certainly not going to keep on talking to a government that is killing our people," and at the weekend she was in Sharpeville again for the funeral of nine victims of violence.

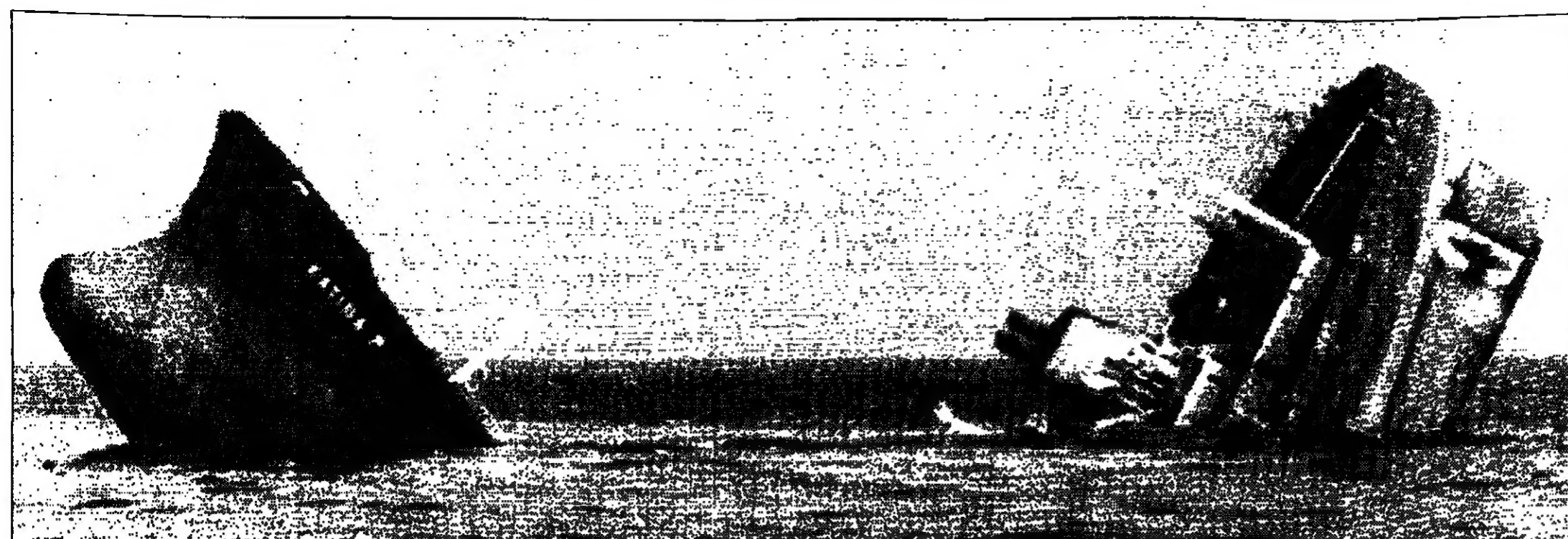
Mrs Mandela is one of the most potent crowd-pleasing platform speakers among black leaders. Her fiery rhetoric helps her to express the views of the squatters, the former members of the Umkhonto we Sizwe — the military wing of the ANC — and those who feel unrepresented by the political institutions.

These amounts to a powerful constituency and, according to Tom Lodge, associate professor of politics at Witwatersrand University, could hinder the

mobilisation of support for the ANC or at least make it conditional on her reintegration into its leadership.

But there are people within the black political community who might like to take advantage of her ability to move crowds and of her undoubted charisma and bravery. Peter Mokaba, leader of the party youth wing, has been her staunch supporter ever since she backed him against allegations that he was a police spy.

The youth wing is important in the townships thanks to its large and growing membership and to the generally higher level of education among its members than among party members as a whole. Harry Gwala, hardline leader of the Natal Midlands and a considerable politician in his own right, is said to need all the help he can get outside his own barony, and when she shared a platform with him in Richmond in Natal she was cheered to the echo for an attack on President de Klerk and Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, the Inkatha leader.



Fore and aft: the Greek-owned Katina P sinking 90 miles off Mozambique, spilling 4.8 million gallons of oil into the Indian ocean. There was no immediate threat of coastal pollution

Ministers welcome Russian reforms

Washington: The statement of the Group of Seven on their meeting with Russian representatives says in part:

□ The finance ministers and central bank governors of the G7 countries met today deputy prime minister Yegor Gaidar and other representatives of the Russian Federation to discuss the historic events unfolding in Russia.

□ The ministers and governors welcomed the reforms already undertaken in Russia. They underscored that there is no productive alternative to establishing a market economy in Russia through the adoption of strong and comprehensive macroeconomic and structural reforms.

They urged Russia and the International Monetary Fund to complete negotiations at an early date on a comprehensive stabilisation and reform programme that provides for reduction of the budget deficit to stabilise the economy and reduce the role of government; curbing monetary growth to bring inflation under control and stop the extension of credit to unviable enterprises; establishing of the legal framework and contractual rights necessary to permit the development of a market economy, including privatisation and private ownership; reform of the agriculture and energy sectors to promote increased production and help earn foreign exchange; a foreign exchange mobilisation system that enables the independent states of the former Soviet Union to meet their international payments; and a unified and market-determined exchange rate set at a realistic level.

□ In this context, the ministers and governors expressed their commitment to support Russia's reform efforts during the difficult period of transition by providing the recently announced \$24 billion (£13.5 billion) multilateral financial assistance package within the context of an agreed IMF programme.

Former Soviet republics given IMF membership

FROM COLIN NARBROUGH IN WASHINGTON

RUSSIA and 13 of the former Soviet republics including the Baltic states have been granted membership of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), giving the organisation the biggest challenge in its 48-year history.

The IMF, which came to the rescue of Britain when the Labour government ran into balance-of-payments difficulties in 1976, will play a crucial role in Western efforts to bring the decrepit economies

of the former Soviet empire fully into a free-market fold.

Membership of the Washington-based institution is a condition Russia has to meet to qualify for the \$24-billion (£14-million) package the Group of Seven leading industrial countries approved on Sunday. It will also unlock billions of dollars from the IMF and World Bank.

The immediate package provides cash help for essential imports and economic stabilisation. Originally put

forward by President Bush, it received formal blessing from finance ministers and central bankers of the G7 at their spring session. The multilateral assistance must be accompanied by a programme of reform drawn up by the IMF. The ministers and central bankers insisted that there was "no productive alternative to establishing a free market system in Russia than the adoption of strong and comprehensive reforms".

Russia's budget deficit last

year equalled 20 per cent of the GNP. Inflation this year is forecast to surge an annual 1,000 per cent.

The \$24-billion package comprises \$18 billion of financial support for this year. Some \$11 billion will be in the form of export guarantees and food aid from the G7 and European Community countries. The international institutions, including the IMF, will provide about \$4.5 billion in credit. The extension of additional time being allowed for Russia to repay its foreign debt amounts to a further \$2.5 billion. Extra aid from Scandinavia and Austria is also included.

To make the rouble a credible currency, a \$6-billion fund is foreseen to stabilise the currency and make it fully convertible. This stabilisation fund will come from a special credit facility previously used for lending between the leading industrial nations only.

Nicholas Brady, the American treasury secretary, said there was no set timetable for implementation, and that he was not even totally sure it was what the Russians wanted in the end. But Yegor Gaidar, the Russian deputy prime minister and architect of radical economic reforms, confidently predicted agreement on the fund by July 1.

Russia would be fully transformed into a market economy by the end of the century, he assured American businessmen in Washington.

Brussels: Carlo Ripa di Meana, the EC's environment commissioner, yesterday appealed to the West to help Russia and Ukraine shut down their old Chernobyl-type nuclear reactors. (Tom Walker writes).

Signor Ripa di Meana said if further nuclear accidents were to be avoided, the G7 summit in Munich in July would have to address the problem of decommissioning the reactors, pooling assistance from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank and the EC's own lending arm, the European Investment Bank.

Pound rises, page 15
World trade, page 17

Western rivals use aid to win influence in Russia

Much of the Western cash may be wasted on duplicate projects, Roger Boyes, East Europe Correspondent writes

bank has more money than projects.

The American view is not just a matter of philosophy. There is also naked competition which makes nonsense of claims that there is a concerted Western aid effort for the East. In Poland, for example, there has been a scramble to promote different housing mortgage schemes. At the moment, the World Bank programme, heavily influenced by the American model, dominates the planning of the Polish government. But other European countries believe they have something to offer and point to the many flaws in the American mortgage system.

Polish farmers seeking advice on crop rotation or access to an information bank can turn to the Polish-American Extension Project, backed by America, or the European Community's Co-operative Development Unit. They seem to provide exactly the same service. American aid specialists say they have been faster on the draw. European specialists say they are more attuned to Polish needs.

In theory, these overlapping services should be co-ordinated by a Polish task force. In fact, the decisions

are made in Washington and Brussels and the best the Poles can do is tip off potential donors that there is somebody already active in the field.

"The British know-how fund tries to avoid duplications," Michael Davenport, the fund's key official in Poland, says. He nevertheless admits that there is a problem of overlap as aid ideas and money flow in from different directions.

Sometimes the need is so huge that transatlantic competition does no harm. The Polish government aims to have 20,000 trained teachers by the end of the decade. At first, the British, helped by the know-how fund, made the running and helped to set up teacher training colleges.

Then the Americans moved in and now British and American consultants are involved. The best barometer of this aid war is the way Poles swing between British and American English.

Aid donors are right to demand reform in return for their offering. But the aid beneficiaries should have the right to reject duplicated assistance or at least be able to insist that programmes are properly co-ordinated.

Man in the news

Economist sets forceful tone

Faith in the free market puts Yegor Gaidar in the Thatcher mould
Mary Dejevsky writes from Moscow

YEGOR Timurevich Gaidar, Russia's first deputy prime minister and its negotiator in Washington, is a man of short stature with a round, baby face. But he radiates confidence and commitment.

He is committed to curing the ills of Russia's economy, and he thinks he knows how to do so. If he is frustrated, he will quit. Indeed, as a threat he and his ministers last week submitted their collective resignation to President Yeltsin.

Mr Gaidar is one of independent Russia's new breed of politicians. He does not need to work in government. He does not need the money, and he does not need the kudos. Before joining the government he was director of the Institute of Economic Policy in Moscow, where reform-minded economists were concentrated. Before, that he

his views, which owe much to Hayek — and Thatcher. His manner tells them he does not care what they think.

The recent Russian Congress of People's Deputies was Mr Gaidar's baptism of fire, and he acquitted himself with distinction. He responded to almost all straight attacks on policy with such fire and certainty that even his opponents were impressed.

The attacks at the congress did force a measure of compromise, and exposed, briefly, one of Mr Gaidar's weaknesses. Political subtlety and manoeuvring is not his way. He was unnecessarily upset by the congress's initial assessment of his economic reform programme, not understanding that it represented a reasonable improvement on the draft and kept most of his policies intact. He demanded, and received almost in full, a more specific commitment to reform and the government's right to govern.

Mr Gaidar is a free-market economist par excellence. He would like to control the money supply more than he has been able to do, and he would like privatisation, or rather denationalisation, to proceed much faster.

Where else would a government have been able to preside over price rises of 300 per cent in a month and remain in office? One reason, of course, is that many people were already paying high black market prices. The main reason, however, is that Mr Gaidar knew what he could get away with, and Mr Yeltsin trusted his judgment.

Mr Yeltsin's faith in Mr Gaidar is what brought him to office and what sustained him in the first few months. But there are signs now that Mr Gaidar could, perhaps, be appointed prime minister in his own right and survive.



Gaidar: If his reforms founder he will quit

was a full-time researcher at the Academy of Sciences, and economic editor for the theoretical Communist party journal, *Kommunist*, and for *Pravda*, the party's newspaper at the time. He speaks and writes well. He has good English, also Spanish and Serbo-Croat, and a doctoral degree.

His conviction and self-assurance are qualities that infuriate his opponents even before they start to consider

World Cup stadium bribery alleged

Rome: Antonio di Pietro, Milan's acting public prosecutor, is investigating allegations that local councillors received bribes in return for awarding building contracts for an extension to the San Siro World Cup football stadium and for a new theatre (John Phillips writes).

Signor di Pietro, who is leading an enquiry into a corruption scandal involving Mario Chiesa, formerly a close associate of Bettino Craxi, the Socialist leader, says he has heard evidence from several businessmen that Milanese councillors had received up to £60 million in illegal payments over the past ten years. Newspapers reported that magistrates were investigating if there had been irregularities in the distribution of the contracts.

Signor Chiesa, who was a Socialist party activist for 20 years, was arrested in February on charges of embezzlement and extortion. The widening of the scandal threatens even further to tarnish Milan's reputation for integrity.

Walesa acts

Warsaw: President Walesa of Poland increased pressure on Jan Olszewski, his prime minister, to step down, producing two replacements: Tadeusz Mazowiecki, a former prime minister, and Andrzej Olechowski, the finance minister. (Reuters)

Police strike

Brussels: The Liège police force is on hunger strike, vowing to continue until the city council restores salaries to national levels. Belgian police are not allowed to take industrial action. By yesterday half the force was missing from duty.

Dockers return

Paris: French dockers returned to work after a five-day strike over changes in working practices that closed ports and cost an estimated billion francs (£100 million). The government has agreed to discuss the reforms with the unions. (Reuters)

Capital hit

Moscow: Two people, including a ten-year-old child, were killed in missile attacks on Stepanakert, capital of the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. Fighting between Azerbaijan and Armenian forces also raged in other areas. (Reuters)

Police attacked

Istanbul: Eight riot police were wounded, one seriously, when their minibus was raked by fire from automatic weapons on the outskirts of the city. The attack is the latest in a series by left-wing and Kurdish groups in Istanbul in recent months. (AP)

Trains planned

Brussels: Europe's railways unveiled plans at a three-day Eurailpass '92 conference for a continent-wide high-speed network which would slash journey times by up to a half between the Atlantic and the Urals from early next century. (Reuters)

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Schwartz takes over as foreign minister

Nati cripp

FROM LAM M

TENS of thousands of workers in the Soviet Union are being laid off as the government attempts to restructure the economy. The layoffs are part of a broader effort to reduce the government's massive budget deficit.

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Workers Kohl's h

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Champion of Europe goes before the dream turns sour



Schwaetzer: takes over as foreign minister

DESPITE Otto von Bismarck's comment that "Those who speak of Europe are wrong," Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who announced yesterday that he would step down as German foreign minister, has done little else but talk Europe during his record-breaking tenure. But his departure is the most striking political signal so far of Germany's creeping unease with European unification. Bismarck's crisp opinion is coming back into fashion.

The German foreign minister was a constant presence at every ministerial meeting held between the Atlantic and the Urals for almost two decades. No important question could be broached at any international body without Herr Genscher's long-winded contribution. His pronouncements were invariably

Herr Genscher's departure is the most striking political signal so far of creeping unease in Germany over European unity, George Brock writes

Influential, although notorious for their vagueness and the length of their sub-clauses.

Herr Genscher's unexpected resignation moves Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, into a position of unusual influence within the pivotal European Community council of foreign ministers as Britain prepares to take over the EC's rotating presidency in July. No succeeding German foreign minister will be a match for Herr Genscher. France's foreign policy is confused and weakened by the government's loss without a and Italy is still without a

government. Whatever Herr Genscher's exact motives for leaving his job next month, his role was transformed when the map of post-war Europe began to be redrawn three years ago. Until Mikhail Gorbachev transformed the Soviet Union, Germany's role in Europe and the world was defined by a clear and unchanging framework.

Germany's only armed force was carefully embedded in a Nato overseen by America. Its economy accounted for a quarter of the EC's gross national product but over sensitive questions of political

integration, Germany would follow the lead of an economically weaker France, sedulously tending a powerful Paris-Bonn axis. A genuine belief in federal European integration ran stronger inside the German political class than anywhere else in the EC. But faith in a united Europe had an added importance: an integrated western Europe was a vital pre-condition for German reunification. Only if the rest of Europe was sure that their newly-enlarged partner was safely clamped into a supra-national EC, the argument ran, would fears of an all-powerful Germany be soothed away.

This equation is still taken as an article of faith by the majority of German politicians and will continue to drive much German policy in Europe, particularly when

Herr Genscher's protégé, Irmgard Schwaetzer, takes over the foreign ministry. But precisely because German and European unification did not happen at the same time — and were never likely to — "Genscherism" began to seem out of sorts with the new world born out of the ruins of the Soviet empire.

By the end of 1990, Herr Genscher and Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, had bargained the return of German sovereignty and unity at extraordinary speed. Herr Genscher's great task was done. "I'm not sure that he has a scheme for the rest of his working life," Sir Julian Bullard, an ex-British ambassador in Bonn, said last year.

Herr Kohl and Herr Genscher both failed to detect their allies' irritation at Germany's lofty disdain for the sordid realities of the Gulf

war until too late. Both men came to a European summit in Luxembourg last summer and joined the hopeful chorus that Yugoslavia could be held together until a looser federation could be arranged.

"They returned to Bonn and a storm of criticism that they had feebly fallen in with a shabby consensus which neglected Slovenia and Croatia's just claims to independence," Germany's diplomacy, now unfettered by worries over prejudicing reunification or upsetting the mighty Soviet Union, took on a harder edge. In December Herr Genscher railroaded the EC into premature recognition of both the ex-Yugoslav republics, thumbing his nose at ideas of more closely coordinated foreign policies in the Maastricht treaty.

As the implications of Maastricht sank in, grumbles

grew over the anticipated loss of the Deutschmark by the end of the century. Although Herr Genscher professes blithe optimism about the ratification of Maastricht in Germany — the vote will be "no problem," he said in France at the weekend — the prospect of a decade of infighting over the schedule for a single currency must have looked dispiriting to a man who gave the project such a strong push.

At the EC's Hanover summit in 1988, most governments were cool towards a scheme to set up a committee under Jacques Delors, the European Commission's president, to map a path to monetary union. Herr Genscher weighed in to support the plan and the committee was born. M Delors and the single currency have not looked back since.

Nationwide strike cripples Germany

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN AND JOHN HOLLAND IN BERLIN

TENS of thousands of west German public-service workers held their first strike in 18 years yesterday, disrupting travel and postal and waste collection services. The action in support of a pay claim could be the start of the worst labour unrest in Germany since the war.

The public-service union, which has a 600-million mark (£200-million) strike fund, is organising a series of strikes around the country. They should cost no more than a million marks a day in strike pay, which means that

the action can be continued almost indefinitely.

Yesterday, public transport services in seven of the 11 west German Länder were targeted. No buses, underground or commuter trains ran in most big cities, including west Berlin, Munich, Frankfurt and Stuttgart.

In Berlin, radios appealed for commuters to pick up passengers and to watch out for the many extra cyclists, weaving through the traffic on their way to work. The city hired 100 private buses as an emergency relief which added

to the congestion. In Berlin, all buses and underground trains on the city's western side were at a standstill. East of the Brandenburg Gate, east Berliners travelled on public transport that was still running.

If the strike continues, however, Berlin is likely to smell a little ripe later in the week. Forecasters are predicting sunny weather and rising temperatures do not augur well for refuse left by the dustmen's strike.

Elsewhere, many long-distance trains were delayed or cancelled and strikers at Hamburg prevented the departure of the prestige intercity express by blocking the line for a while. Hamburg harbour was blocked and lock-keepers down the Elbe refused to allow barges through.

Postal services were at a virtual standstill everywhere. About eight million letters piled up over the weekend at one Hamburg sorting office alone and 20 tonnes of air-mail could not be sent abroad. Over 20 main telephone exchanges were left without operators. In several Bavarian cities, gas, water and electricity workers joined the strike.

Genscher survived political minefield

Michael Binyon studies the man at the helm of Germany's foreign policy for 18 years

IN GERMANY, the old joke asks: "What is the difference between God and Genscher?" — "God is everywhere, but Genscher is everywhere except Bonn."

From May 17, the world's longest-serving and most indefatigable foreign minister will no longer be seen at airports, summits and press conferences. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who has served in the cabinet for more than half the Federal Republic's lifetime, is retiring after 18 years as foreign minister, a month after his 65th birthday.

His departure plunges his Free Democratic party and his government into crisis, and recalls his notorious description from the Social Democratic government of Helmut Schmidt in 1982. His support for the Christian Democrats brought Herr Kohl to power, but at a cost of bitter accusations of treachery.

Yet he recovered, earning a reputation for political guile and agility, so that nine years later he was voted the most popular politician in Germany, and cartoonists dressed "Genscher" in the clothes of Batman.



World stages: Herr Genscher, Germany's longest serving foreign minister, with Roy Hattersley in 1975, Andrei Gromyko in 1983 and Helmut Kohl and Mikhail Gorbachev in 1990. Colleagues paid tribute to his knowledge

port for the central governments and then, in a sudden policy switch, infuriating Germany's European partners with his stubborn insistence on early recognition of Croatia and Slovenia. The man who spent a generation trying to expunge memories of the past was not the man to give voice to Germany's new assertiveness.

In recent months his critics on the right have accused him of serious mistakes, hinting that the man who spent too much time

"sitting on the sofas" with former Soviet officials such as Andrei Gromyko and Leonid Brezhnev was not best placed to respond to the new exigencies in the East. They demand something more vigorous than the middle-of-the-road platitudes that have been the leitmotif of German policy for two generations: predictability, compromise, reticence in using the country's political or economic muscle, an untrammelled faith in European unity and an ersatz European patri-

otism as a substitute for German nationalism.

He grew up poor in Halle, in East Germany. At the end of the war he could have stayed in the West, but returned to Halle, his studies and his mother. Graduating as a lawyer, he became seriously ill with tuberculosis, a disease that has since dogged him in parallel with the heart disease that recently threatened him and may lie behind his resignation. He escaped by train to East Berlin and then the West in

1952, resumed his studies in Bremen and joined the Free Democrats. He moved up the party hierarchy, and by 1968 had become party leader, almost at once entering the government under Chancellor Schmidt as interior minister.

Irmgard Schwaetzer, who succeeds him, can never duplicate the breadth of his experience and contacts. She, and Germany, may find that Genscherism continues to guide foreign policy long after he himself is gone.



Day of chaos: Bild's cartoon on yesterday's strike by public-service workers, their first in 18 years

Workers sicken of Kohl's harsh diet

BY IAN MURRAY

HELMUT Kohl, the German chancellor, returned from his annual summer holiday yesterday to find himself confronted by what the newspaper *Bild* headlined "Chaos Day".

The country he proudly led to unification only 18 months ago was beset by its worst ever strike. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his most experienced cabinet minister, announced his resignation and Gerda Hasselfeldt, his health minister, stepped down after 18 ineffectual months in office.

Opinion polls show the chancellor's Christian Democrats (CDU) at their lowest ebb since 1953, while the right-wing Republicans would certainly win seats in the Bundestag if an election were held tomorrow. Even the national football team, world champions in unification year, had only been able to scramble an undignified draw with Czechoslovakia. The chancellor, who coyly refused to say yesterday how much weight he had lost over Easter, could well worry away a few more pounds.

Herr Kohl appears to have been overwhelmed by events. His unfulfilled promise to

turn eastern Germany into a "flourishing landscape" without raising taxes has undermined his popularity.

His failure to win any significant political concessions during the Maastricht summit has started an internal debate about German commitment to his dream of a federal Europe. Germany's inability to send troops to the Gulf war destroyed his hopes of being accepted as a credible "partner in world leadership" with America.

Inflation is running at a 10-year high, thanks to unification costs. The Bundesbank is maintaining interest rates at a level which makes the economic recovery of the rest of the world much more difficult. Public borrowing has swollen the national debt to the point where a quarter of the budget is needed to service it.

The unions now believe that they have made enough sacrifices. Workers in the west see their living standards threatened while in the east one in three is out of work. Both sides blame the other, so what is now known as "the wall in the head" is growing higher by the day.

However, efforts to bring several Bonn ministries to a standstill largely failed. Most workers at the defence and economics ministry and the government press office defied the call to stop work. Top civil servants are not allowed by law to strike, but most secretaries and junior personnel, members of the union's white-collar section, turned up at their desks as usual.

Encouraged by the show of militancy, Frau Monika Wulf-Mathies, the union leader, said in Berlin that the government as employers had provoked the strike and now they had to come forward with a new offer. The union claim was for 9.5 per cent plus an extra holiday bonus, she said. There was no longer any question of a settlement in line with the 5.4 per cent suggested by an arbitration panel. The government has so far refused to go above 4.8 per cent.

In Essen, a young couple turned up to be married at the town hall, only to find the doors to the register office were closed by the strike. However the mayor, who was to perform the ceremony, set up a temporary office in a bus parked nearby. Pickets lined the way from the town hall to the bus, raising their arms to form a guard of honour as the couple walked through.

Leading article, page 11

International boycott greets the birth of a third Yugoslavia

FROM DESSA TREVISAN AND TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

IN AN attempt to head off sanctions and international isolation, Serbia and Montenegro yesterday proclaimed the foundation of a new Yugoslav state and pledged to respect the territorial integrity of their neighbours.

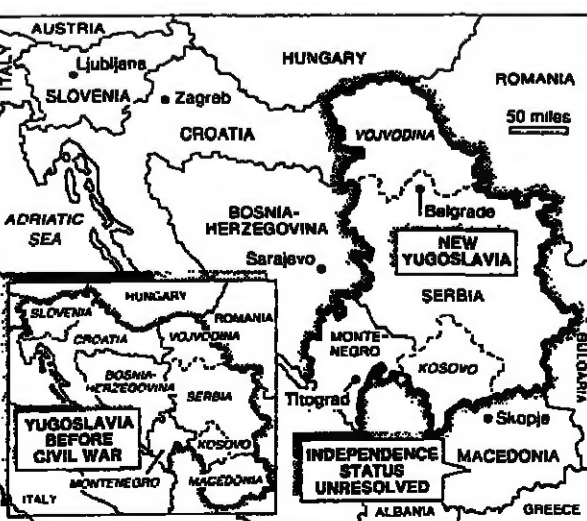
In a ceremony boycotted by almost all European countries and the United States, the two republics declared they were founding a third, albeit shrunken, Yugoslavia which would be a successor to the states created in 1918 and 1944. "This will be the real one," said Blagoje Adzic, Yugoslavia's acting defence minister.

The United States has led European countries in condemning Serbia for "aggression" against its newly recognised neighbour, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Serbia was

given until tomorrow to rectify its behaviour or face an array of sanctions including suspension, as Yugoslavia, from the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

In a political masterstroke, Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, brought forward the creation of a new state and yesterday a solemn declaration was read out in parliament which, on paper, commits Yugoslavia to everything demanded by the security conference.

The new state has pledged to respect the territorial integrity of its neighbours and to do more than is internationally demanded with regard to respect for human and minority rights. Serbs in Bosnia and Croatia have not been forgotten, for the new Yugo-



slavia does not exclude the possibility that they may, one day, join the new state. In this way President Milosevic, a past master at wriggling out of the tightest of political corners, appears to have secured his survival once again. Yesterday's ceremonies were boycotted by Serbia and Montenegro's opposition parties which stand for the

independence of their republics.

Over the last few weeks Serb militias, backed by the Serb-dominated federal army, have been securing large areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina for Bosnian Serbs. This operation has now been almost completed and a territorial link between Serbia and Serb areas of Bosnia and Croatia has been secured.

Following this military success and facing an angry international reaction, the Yugoslav army has now begun negotiations with the Bosnian government on its future in the republic that, by Belgrade's own definition, is now a foreign country. Asked if Serbs and Montenegrins in the Yugoslav army in Bosnia would now be withdrawn, Vladislav Jovanovic, the Serbian foreign minister, said: "You can expect this."

Radmilo Bogdanovic, the president of Serbia's security and defence council, also said: "We must put a full stop to the activities of paramilitary formations." Until now the very existence of such groups has been vigorously denied in Belgrade. Mr Jovanovic added that Serbia had now taken measures to prevent armed groups crossing the border into Bosnia.

Serbia has now committed itself to everything demanded by the international community but it remains to be seen whether security conference countries will accept the new state's claim to be the legal successor to the old. While non-aligned states and Russia attended yesterday's ceremony, the European and American boycott can be taken as meaning that Serbia and Montenegro cannot expect automatic recognition.

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Classless society can't get airborne

Janet Daley reflects on Virgin Atlantic's capitulation to the middle-class traveller

Yet another dream of egalitarianism bites the dust. Richard Branson, who once talked of running a classless airline, has truly given up the ghost. Cheap and cheerful democracy in the skies was probably always doomed. Offering a service without petty snobberies would have been a heroic notion. Climbing aboard a plane which simply takes one from A to B without pretentious frills has enormous appeal for the young and the socially unassuming. But Virgin Atlantic has found not only that the profit margin on an airborne shuttle service would not be viable, but that passengers paying full "cheer" fares resent being seated next to lesser beings paying even cheaper fares on package deals. Virgin's top whack first class (which Branson, with determined irony, labelled "upper class") won the airline its share of expensive account business customers (with the help of an advertising campaign which sought to eliminate Virgin's poverty-stricken student image) and put the concept of a People's Airline firmly out of the picture.

And so there were only two types of Virgin Atlantic passenger: the privileged few and the rest. But as in some famous revolutionary experiments,

But it is just this kind of middle class which is now boldly seizing its destiny: not only must Virgin Atlantic capitulate to the demand for a service in the middle ground between pseudo-aristocracy and the rabble, but many other services, both public and private, are having to cope with this newly strident and unabashed demand from the centre which has found its voice (and which grows ever larger as the working class becomes more affluent).

Emboldened by Thatcherism, the new middle class has an enormous range and variety. No longer does being "middle class" mean a homogeneous lifestyle and tastes. There is another possibility: not middle class in the old-fashioned home counties sense of upper-class life on the cheap, but certainly no longer working class. Much has been said about the economic enfranchisement of the mortgage property ownership has been seen (disastrously and unnecessarily) as the definitive right of passage out of the passivity of working-class life. In European countries, where most affluent people rent apartments, the embourgeoisement of those who are rising requires no such irreversible risk.

But whether home-owning or suffering repossession, employed or redundant, the new recruits to the middle ground can never again be absorbed into the unreconstructed proletariat. Like Virgin's clientele, they have chosen to distance themselves from the stratum which they consider beneath them, and that conscious decision is irreversible. As many an autobiographical novel has made clear, once a person has become aware of himself as a creature of his own making, there is no going back. Which is why a seemingly snobbish middle class will always be with us. Moving up and away from one's origins has much less to do with crass materialism (which is all that the Labour party imagines it is) than with the ability to define one's own life rather than having it defined by one's forebears.

That desire to pull away from the self-immolating defeatism of British working-class culture was the motivating force behind the grammar school tradition. The widespread mourning for selective state schools is a much more profound sense of loss than the glib enemies of elitism allow. It is based on a conviction that the grammar schools provided a system of moral support for those who had discovered the right to define themselves. Losing the grammar schools meant that — as originally on Virgin Airlines — there were places only for the toffs with money and for the rest, who were treated as indistinguishable from one another.

Occupying the vast middle ground in Britain now is a polyglot, many-layered diversity whose tastes conform to few stereotypes: drinking more wine and less beer, eating more brie and less cheddar, discovering the continent, going to restaurants, preferring wine bars to pubs, peering the walls with Laura Ashley rather than anaglypta — or mixing and matching any arbitrary combination of the above to find a lifestyle that suits (and which may be dispensed with at will). For many people, being in the middle means being free and proud of it. Unlike the pilots on Virgin Airlines, they are bravely steering without an autopilot. For while the bottom and the top of a society are its givens, it is in the space in the middle that one is allowed to find oneself.

'On any type of transport people are sensitive to enforced intimacy with social inferiors'

What seems inevitable is the inclination of people to sort themselves into roughly three types: those who perch unapologetically on the top (powerful, usually rich, and contentedly privileged); those who by virtue of poverty and powerlessness cannot deny that they are at the bottom; and that far more extensive and aspirant class in between. What used to be called the middle class in England (but not Scotland) was really an upper class manque, led by the learned professions and those whose profits in "trade" permitted them to ape the landed gentility of their aristocratic models. A true bourgeoisie in the European sense of a proudly ambitious burgher class — prudent, thrifty and hard-working — has always been denigrated as gauche ("suburban" and "naïf").



...and moreover
CRAIG BROWN

An eerie, almost Orwellian fact of modern life has been pointed out to me. When you fill your car with petrol at anything over a middle-size garage, the registration number of your car spookily appears at the top of the receipt. How can a receipt know the number of my car when I can't even remember its colour?

But then the whole purpose of garages is to make their customers feel unsettled. How else could they persuade motorway travellers to load their cars with the vast stocks of beachballs, deck chairs and sun-loungers they have on offer next to the Nat King Cole cassettes and the chicken tikka sandwiches?

With so many problems abounding in the media — sex problems and diet problems and green problems and royal problems — it is disturbing that garage problems, affecting at least 70 per cent of the population, have been so completely ignored. Is there anyone who does not live with the sneaking fear that the petrol pump will jam in his hand, spilling great waves of petrol all over the garage forecourt while his fellow pumpers look on aghast and the meter ticks ever upwards?

Another worry: it is a busy time of the day, and there is a queue of cars waiting behind each pump. You have finished pumping your petrol, but you have not yet paid. Do you leave the car where it is while you nip in to pay, so incurring the wrath of the queue, or do you get back in your car and drive out of the

way, thus risking prosecution from the irate garage for attempted evasion of payment? My own garage traumas go back a long way, and may well result from the pathetic association I have always made between the smell of petrol and the long and forlorn journey back to my prep school. The antipathy is, alas, mutual. There is, I believe, something about me that brings out the very worst in garage mechanics, turning them all into bullies and know-alls. Meanwhile, I become a gibbering imbecile, combining craven heartiness in their presence with ill-disguised ignorance.

My first car was a Morris Minor, which I always used to take to the same garage for petrol, repairs, MOTs and so on. Over the course of some months, I thought I had managed to hoodwink the mechanics at this garage into thinking that I was a dab hand with motors, knew what a carburettor was and what to do when big ends started to appear. Though they probably had me down as a bit of a bookish type, I nevertheless felt that, by nodding knowingly at all their car-talk, I had earned their respect. But one day I entered when the chief mechanic was on the phone to his boss. "Hold on," I heard him say. "Mr Brown's just come in."

There was a pause. "Yes... you know, Mr Brown. The one with the Morris!" There was a further pause. "That's right. Ha ha ha!" I found myself back in the workshop of a garage last weekend. Our car wouldn't start, so a

friend had towed it to his local garage. As the mechanics looked underneath and tut-tutted and then opened the bonnet and tut-tutted some more, I stood around with my arms crossed and a mechanical expression on my face, trying hard to look car-wise, all the time dreading they would ask me a question I couldn't answer.

Eventually it came: "Ever looked under this bonnet before?" they said. "Actually, no," I replied, thinking they might let me off for being honest. They chuckled ferociously to one another. "Not even when you bought it?"

The overwhelming election of Betty Boothroyd as the first woman Speaker of the Commons was last night celebrated as a victory for backbenchers of all parties over the government whips' office, for the populist choice over the preferences of the establishment — or, in Westminster terms, for the rank-and-file in Annie's Bar over the knights in the smoking room. And, so it is, up to a point.

Miss Boothroyd is an ideal Speaker for the television age, the first to be elected since the cameras arrived in 1989. Her well-judged and self-deprecating speech in yesterday's debate, with its lingering trace of her Yorkshire accent, punctured the cloying self-satisfaction of the Commons on such grand occasions. She is less remote from the ordinary viewer, or voter, than many of her predecessors, who have tended to appear as stuffy, bewigged defenders of a distant Westminster club. Peter Brooke, her main rival for the chair, was erudite and charming in his speech yesterday, as always, but he sounded too much a figure from a past age when Balliol men ruled.

By contrast, Miss Boothroyd has a more immediate, and wider, appeal. On becoming one of the deputy speakers in 1987 she told an enquiring MP "Call me Madam"; this folksy charm and her brief period as a high-kicking Tiller girl made her the tabloids' favourite for the Speakership well before yesterday's election. She has been made to appear like a more decorous version of a popular television show host like Gloria Hunniford, slightly plump but still handsome.

But such appearances are also misleading. Miss Boothroyd is not an outsider, but very much an insider who has fought her way up the political ladder. At the time she was briefly a professional dancer, she was already involved in the Labour League of Youth. Now aged 62, she has been involved full-time in Labour politics since her early twenties, as secretary and assistant to various MPs and Lord Walsby for twenty years. She has never married. She fought four elections, losing two Labour-held seats in tough contests, before entering the Commons at the fifth attempt after 16 years in 1973 for what is now West Bromwich (West). Few of her colleagues have surmounted so many hurdles.

In the Commons she quickly became a full member of the club, as an assistant whip, normally an all-male preserve, for two years. But otherwise she has been solely a backbencher. She was a member of Labour's delegation to the European assembly in the late 1970s, before serving in the establishment positions of the chairman's panel (chairs standing committees on legislation) and the House of Commons commission (responsible for administration), before becoming a deputy speaker. As John Biffen, her principal Tory backer, argued yesterday, her long apprenticeship has ensured that she can understand "the fraternity of suffering" — the backbenchers.

Miss Boothroyd was also a strongly partisan figure on the Labour right, arguing consistently in favour of Britain's membership of the EC and attacking Militant and the extreme left. She regarded the election of Michael Foot as party leader as a "disaster".

There is a revealing passage in Tony Benn's *Diaries*, describing a fringe meeting of the

By popular demand



In good voice: the Speaker will need all her skills to control a House with many new members and a frustrated Opposition

Betty Boothroyd has succeeded at Westminster by competence and charm, says Peter Riddell

right-wing Campaign for Labour Victory at a party regional conference in March 1980. "Betty made an awful speech about how we need a radical policy but we can't be too far ahead of public opinion: that there is a great attraction to private investment in public industry and perhaps we should consider giving people a share, a 'divvy' in the nationalised industries. We want to create a society on the basis of consumer democracy." Twelve years on, Miss Boothroyd looks considerably more prudent — and in tune with public opinion — than Mr Benn.

But Miss Boothroyd has never been, or even promised to be, a leading political figure; she is more a doughty fighter than a leader: intelligent and well-informed rather than intellectual. Her success, at least, since the mid-1980s, has been as a House of Commons figure, a member of the club. Unlike Margaret Thatcher, for instance, who was respected by most though liked by only a few, Miss Boothroyd is popular with all but the most ideological on both the Labour and Tory benches. She has succeeded in the predominantly male world of Westminster not by becoming more macho than the men, but by competence, charm and by retaining her femininity.

She may have liked a gin-and-tonic while chatting to journalists and may have middlebrow tastes, but she is not someone to cross or to patronise. As Neil Kinnock pointed out, she has shown steeliness at times, or she could not have survived her long apprenticeship or her six years on Labour's national executive committee during some of its stormiest years in the

1980s, when she often battled with the left.

As deputy speaker she has gradually gained in confidence when handling a difficult House, showing what Mr Biffen described as "authority and courtesy". Her earthy streak disarms MPs. She can be quite authoritative, and at times authoritarian, when bringing people to order. She does not mind whom she tackles. She has been described, inevitably, as acting like a schoolmistress. But that conveys the mistaken implication that like Dame Janet Fookes — at one time a possible Tory challenger for the Speakership — she is somehow schoolmarmish. Instead, Miss Boothroyd gives the impression that she knows who is being naughty and that they should stop it, because she might have been a bit naughty herself in the past. There is nothing of the prim spinster about her — rather the opposite. Her liveliness, indeed garrulousness in conversation, put off a number of the more traditional Tory MPs, who were worried that she might not be quite dignified enough for the post.

As Speaker, her job will be to keep the House on course in face of the often conflicting demands from government and the Opposition, and as Mr Benn reminded the House yesterday — from minority parties and from minorities within all parties. She must handle 650 MPs, most of whom feel they should have a say on the issues of the day. Bernard Weatherill, Speaker for the past nine years, has remarked that the job requires "total impartiality, complete fairness and absolute impartiality to pressures brought by either of the frontbenches or anybody else".

Special challenges will be presented by the new parliament. New members make up just over a fifth of the House: the highest intake for more than 40 years. Moreover, both the continuation of Tory rule into a fourth term, and the reduction in the government's majority to 21 will increase pressures, as well as compounding the frustrations of parliamentary life for the vast majority of Labour MPs who have never experienced anything other than opposition. Scottish members from all the opposition parties are a potentially explosive combination, with the Tories having only 11 of the 72 members from north of the border. The old maxim about the Opposition having its say while the government has its way will require even more delicate balancing than usual.

Miss Boothroyd showed yesterday that she is aware of these potential difficulties. Having a Labour MP as Speaker is a useful antidote to triumphalism on the Tory side. She has already shown she can handle the House. And as Gwyneth Dunwoody, her old friend and

second yesterday, pointed out, she has probably already thought of all the clever parliamentary manoeuvres devised by the party whips and "the usual channels".

The real question about her Speakership is whether she will be too conventional, too conservative a defender of Westminster as it is. While the initiative for changes in procedure lies with the leader of the Commons and consultations between parties, the Speaker can have an influence. Speaker Weatherill did not disguise his support for televising the Commons, and he will be remembered for sensibly presiding over its introduction. In the new parliament, proposals will shortly be brought forward for changing hours, to reduce substantially the number of very late sittings. This would change the nature of the Commons, reducing the pressure on the increased number of members with young families, particularly the much larger group of women MPs. That is a challenge to the thinking of someone like Miss Boothroyd, for whom Westminster is everything in life.

As the first woman Speaker, Betty Boothroyd is assured of her place in the history of parliament. She also promises to be a highly capable, witty and fair occupant of the chair — better certainly than her two Labour predecessors, Horace King in the 1960s, with his growing difficulties over drink, and George Thomas in the late 1970s and early 1980s with his increasing snobbery and self-righteousness. Miss Boothroyd is more level-headed than either. As she said before yesterday's vote, "elect me for who I am, and not for what I was born."

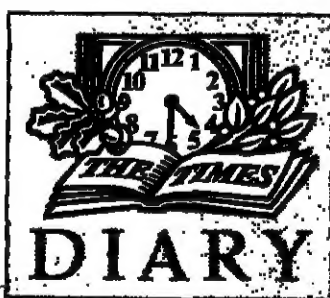
Gift of the garb

ONE of Betty Boothroyd's first engagements as the new Speaker will be with Sir Hardy Amies, dressmaker by royal appointment to the Queen. Among the rival tenders, Boothroyd has already rejected an offer of a made-to-measure Speaker's costume from the Savile Row firm run by her forerunner, Bernard Weatherill.

The house of Norman Harnell still has an outside chance, but the commission for the elaborate costume is now almost certain to go to Amies. Hugh Holland, managing director of Bernard Weatherill Ltd, concedes: "We would have been honoured to have made the Speaker's outfit. But it is a very complicated and highly skilled process. It would have taken at least six months."

Amies is expected to get the job — which is worth about £2,500 — not only because he can produce the outfit more swiftly, but because of an old friendship. He made the black gown Boothroyd has worn since she became a deputy speaker. The designers will work in conjunction with Ede & Ravenscroft, the court tailors.

First, Boothroyd must decide what sort of costume to wear, as the traditional 18th-century breeches worn by past Speakers clearly present some difficulties. "I want to stay with the traditions of the Speakership over the centuries," says Boothroyd. "Obviously, though, the outfit will have to be adapted for me so that I do not deny my sex." She has not yet decided whether to sport her own striking locks or don the wig that has gone with the office since 1377. Speaker's House has a selection of eight for her to choose from.



lighted to hear that Boothroyd is not planning any significant departure from tradition. "Uniform is important, because it draws attention to the office, not the holder." The velvet for his court dress, donated by the Federation of Master Tailors, is going to a new museum in Weatherill's former Croydon constituency, while his dress shoes will be displayed in the Jewel Tower in the Palace of Westminster, minus their large buckles — which go with the job.

From Hogarth to the double whammy. The most memorable phrase of an otherwise unmemorable election campaign is about to be commemorated as a museum-piece in double-quick time. Labour's poster, which some members of the voting public took to be an advertisement for a new hamburger, will take its place later this week alongside the cartoons of Hogarth and Gillray in an exhibition of election fever — or perhaps election fatigue — at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Among the most interesting exhibits is a 1983 pack of playing cards entitled *Cabinet Shuffle*. The spades are all Tories, the hearts Labour, diamonds are the Libs' suit while the clubs are the SDP. And the jokers? Enoch Powell and Ian Paisley.

Canvassed again

SINCE HE rescued a Canaletto, it seems that scarcely a painting in Britain goes under the hammer without someone, somewhere appealing to Andrew Lloyd Webber to save it for the nation. Yesterday, as Lloyd Webber unveiled his new purchase at the Tate, it was Salford council in Manchester, home of L.S. Lowry and his matchstick men. They wrote to the composer

I'm not keen on Webber's cats either



(Ged after Lowry)

asking him to step into the breach and save three of their favourite son's works — *Industrial Landscape*, *The Football Match* and *On the Promenade* — which over the weekend were removed after a long loan to Manchester's city art gallery, and are to go under the hammer at Sotheby's next month. They are expected to fetch £350,000.

But matchstick men, alas, are not to the Lloyd Webber taste. "I am not a great lover of his work," he said dismissively at the Tate yesterday. "There are certain works I would like to keep in Britain. Lowry's are not among them."

Floppy, Mopsy, Cotton-tail, not to mention Peter Rabbit and Jemima Puddle-duck, are about to make their Covent Garden debut. *Bonnie Potter's* characters, who danced their way through Sir Frederick Ashton's film, will come to life on stage for what is believed to be the first time, the Royal Ballet will announce next week. Details remain secret until the new season is formally revealed by Anthony Dowell. However, the production will be heavily based on the 1971 film, the first ballet to be written especially for the screen. Doreen Russell will play Jemima, who, in one of the film's most memorable scenes, dances a pas de deux with the gallant Foy Gentleman.

Blacked!

ANGRY Edinburgh cabbies claim they are being treated as second-class drivers compared with their London counterparts. They are at loggerheads with ScotRail over plans to charge them £1,000 a year to pick up fares from Waverley and Haymarket stations. Travellers to the Athens of the North next month could find themselves having to haul their luggage into a windswept Princes Street.

Dennis Cloney, general secretary of the Scottish Taxi Federation, says that unless ScotRail backs down, Edinburgh drivers will boycott the stations, refusing to set down or pick up passengers at the door. It is not a problem, the disgruntled Scots point out, that London cabbies face. Their position is enshrined in a 1907 Act which permits licensed hackney carriages to ply freely for business in London stations. Not a word about Edinburgh — another example of Sassenach discrimination, say the Scots, and yet more grist to the devolution mill.



THE NO

The new House of Commons Westminster yesterday in election for once directed attention to fully round the Labour backbencher. Being the first woman Speaker in history. Such opposition in Parliament should not be day. The opposition needs a day. The opposition needs a day. The opposition needs a day.

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THE NOISE OF DEMOCRACY

The new House of Commons gathered at Westminster yesterday to elect a Speaker, its attention for once directed at itself rather than at government or party. Most MPs thus felt free to rally round the candidacy of the Labour backbencher, Betty Boothroyd, as the first woman Speaker in the office's long history. Such unparliamentary focus on the good of Parliament should not be confined to one day. The institution needs reform to be more than a restless electoral college and inefficient legislative machine for the government of the day.

The drawn-out election found the nation more exhausted by the party battle than perhaps at any time since the war. The new Parliament should see in this a deep scepticism over its processes. Reform needs to be continuous if Parliament's methods are not to lag behind the needs of modern government. Margaret Thatcher ignored Parliament as anything but a stage on which she could shine. Her whips treated even the innovation of select committees as a sham. The Commons is a theatre, a club, a running opinion poll and a mob much given to hysteria. But its constitutional functions of deliberation, legislation and scrutiny have been woefully neglected for years.

As Miss Boothroyd reminded the House yesterday, since television cameras were allowed into the chamber in 1989 the "customer" for parliamentary business has directly included the public. The public has not been impressed. The most common fragment of parliamentary business to be broadcast is the twice-weekly prime minister's question time, a partisan verbal punch-up against a background that is unequalled in British public life for its bad manners. Everything to do with this absurd event is tailored to the news sound-bite. It conveys no information and is largely a test of repartee based on the day's newspapers.

The new Parliament inherits some tired and belated reform proposals from the last

days of its predecessor, notably in the report of a House of Commons committee published in February. These were designed to make life for MPs more convenient, above all an end to all-night sittings, which would never continue beyond 10.30. MPs would get more notice of their annual holidays, speeches would be shorter and the House would sit on fewer Fridays. Such reforms for the greater convenience of MPs are doubtless useful, especially to those with other jobs or families, but they are hardly revolutionary, nor do they answer to the Commons' constitutional inadequacy.

The conduct of debates and behaviour in the chamber both need review. Cross-party discussion of how to get better use out of question time, perhaps by rationing or screening supplementary questions, should be put in hand, along with a review of how to improve the consideration of bills during committee stages, perhaps in collaboration with the House of Lords. Patronage also needs urgent review.

John Major's appointment of Tony Newton as Leader of the Commons was described by Downing Street as a token of the prime minister's interest in reform. But how will he and Mr Newton fare against the "it was good enough in my young day..." backlash? Probably a better chance of reform may lie not with the good intentions of older parliamentarians but with the impatience of the new blood. The Commons has 140 new members, and the proportion of women, though still less than 10 per cent, is now the largest in its history.

Mr Major is said to be considering a commitment to parliamentary reform in the Queen's Speech on May 6. Such reform is traditionally initiated by the government of the day, but it would come best out of the cross-party spirit shown at the Speaker's election yesterday. It was Parliament at its least rancorous and most effective. May that spirit live on.

MIRACLE OR DISEASE?

Britain should not resort too readily to their favourite German word *Schadenfreude* in viewing Germany's troubles that so closely recall the "British disease" of the 1970s. That country is suffering one of the biggest strikes since the second world war. The government is beset with economic difficulties and financial commitments that it seems unable to meet. The German Chancellor's popularity is at an all-time low as voters angered by tax scandals and immigration flows turn to far right parties and their nationalist slogans.

In other words, the German foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, could not have chosen a worse time to resign. His own FDP party, lagging in the polls, looks more and more like a dwindling force dominated by his own political persona. Despite his reputation as an agile politician who has jumped ship before, Herr Genscher's decision is not informed by the same opportunism that took him out of the coalition with Helmut Schmidt and allowed Helmut Kohl to assume power in 1982.

There are no big differences of policy between the Chancellor and his coalition partner; no international crisis has wrong-footed Herr Genscher and left him the butt of domestic criticism as he was over the Gulf war. He appears to be leaving simply because he is tired of the job after 18 years, though his decision may have been spurred by the widespread criticism, probably shared also by the Chancellor, that he does not now represent the *Zeitgeist*. Germany no longer needs a man from the generation impelled to expiate the past and reassure nervous neighbours of its peaceful intentions. After unification, it needs a foreign minister able to assert German interests without inhibition, but without arousing antagonism.

Herr Kohl has appointed Imgard Schwaetzer, a Free Democrat like Herr Genscher, who is unexceptionable but no heavyweight. He would have done better to make a quick switch of Volker Rühe, his suave ambitious former party chairman,

from the defence ministry to the foreign ministry despite having only just appointed him to the former post. Herr Rühe, a vigorous and original conservative, represents the new thinking Germany needs in its relations with France, the former Soviet Union and the Atlantic alliance.

The Chancellor's hands have clearly been tied by the need to avoid a damaging row with the FDP. His dilemma illustrates the weakness of proportional representation, where one small party permanently holds the balance of power. Herr Kohl knows that he has much to do if his party is to win again in 1994. He must grapple with migrant asylum, controversy over which is driving thousands into the arms of the far right. He must start creating real unity between east and west within Germany, and persuade his western countrymen that the sacrifices they are being asked to make for unity are worthwhile. And he must find the money for all the promises to help the East as well as the large German share of the Community costs.

The current strike will probably end in the usual fudge. Maastricht is likely to be ratified, despite deep worries over loss of sovereignty and loss of control of the currency. But the economic outlook remains gloomy. Germany is now suffering a self-imposed industrial burden of high labour costs and comprehensive social benefits. It has still to overcome the mistake of the wrong conversion rate of the East German mark.

Germany's holiday ethic is replacing its famous work ethic. The Bundesbank alone cannot stem the inflationary pressures of the "British disease", though it can clearly impose on its own people and the rest of Europe the most cruel interest rates since the war. The Chancellor, often underestimated by his opponents, has a streak of ruthlessness which may enable him to overcome popular enmity after ten years in office. He is not yet being challenged by a credible Social Democratic opposition. But he needs new thinking; and not just in the foreign ministry.

EQUAL BUT DIFFERENT

Only a century has passed since Cambridge and then Oxford started to admit women as undergraduates, and much less than a century since they enjoyed full university rights. But does such recognition require that women and men should always cohabit in one institution? Of course there should be equality of opportunity in education for children of both sexes, and all races and classes and other categories. But should the ending of discrimination against women mean coeducation in everything?

The undergraduates of Somerville College, Oxford, are preparing to take legal action against their governing body for its decision to admit men as students, alleging breach of the college charter and statutes, breach of trust and contract, and breach of natural justice. They are supported by such exemplary graduates of their college as Margaret Thatcher and Shirley Williams. It is an odd and important twist in the long march to treating women as educable human beings, not least that the juniors are agents of continuity while some of their seniors, perhaps nostalgic for the battles of their youth, are agents of change.

Having once closed their shop to women (and other outsiders) for so long, Oxford went pell-mell for coeducation in the 1960s, led by King's, Cambridge. Men's colleges at the old universities all ceased to be male preserves, though the women's foundations took longer to fall. As a result, the quality of entry to Somerville, Girton and other women's colleges was diluted. From taking the pick of half the human race, they had to share their female applicants with all the other colleges.

Most of these formerly all-male colleges were older and superficially more desirable. From leading the field in examination results and in the quality of scholars in their senior common rooms, the women's colleges fell down the league tables. In particular they were poorer than the older colleges. Women graduates do not seem yet to be as keen accumulators of wealth (or as keen to leave it to their *almas matres*) as men.

One of the advantages of a collegiate university is that it can offer different colleges and courses to suit all tastes. In the aggressively free-enterprise world of American higher education, colleges or at least halls of residence for women only, and for various minority groups, are now springing up. Evidence already suggests that most girls perform better in single-sex schools. The tendency of smart boys' schools to admit girls to their sixth forms can amount to not liberation but piracy. It is highly probable that some single-sex colleges, for men as well as women, offer an option that many students want.

On Sunday Somerville undergraduates voted overwhelmingly to take legal action to try to arrest the college's change of status. They rightly insist equality of opportunity does not mean elimination of choice and variety in the range of colleges available to women. If they fail in their protest, all the more important will it then become that the other women's colleges, St Hilda's, Newnham, New Hall and Lucy Cavendish, continue to provide first class single-sex education for the brightest and best of Britain's women.

Whither the wig and the gown?

From His Honour Judge Paul Collins

Sir, Here at the confluence of the wigs and gowns industry we do not, pace David Pannick, QC ("Wigs and gowns are absurd dress for today's lawyers", April 24), believe that respect for judicial proceedings depends on the wearing of horsehair. (Only last year, in an atmosphere of complete gravity, a Chancery judge dispensed justice flat on his back in his pyjamas.)

But a criminal trial is, and ought to be, a formal and different proceeding. The appropriate tone is not created, but marked by formal and different apparel worn by judge and advocates.

Of course our robes are anachronisms, but anachronisms are easy to justify: if it ain't broke, don't fix it. Perhaps the Commercial Bar Association would prefer to "privatise" the Commercial Court into an informal forum of arbitration rather than the place of public justice. Perhaps that would be a good idea. But the difference should not be overlooked.

Meanwhile, if Mr Pannick's wig is itching, he should have it cleaned.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL COLLINS,
The Crown Court,
Knightsbridge, SW1.
April 24.

From His Honour Judge Peter Jackson

Sir, Wigs and gowns must go, argues Mr Pannick, and you apparently agree with him ("Dash their wigs!", leading article, April 27).

The "burden" and "handicap" of the wig to the Bench and Bar, as feared by Mr Pannick, does not appear to be supported by the high worldwide reputation of the Commercial Court and the enormous and well-deserved success of the Commercial Bar, at home and abroad.

Legal robes, including hats in some cases, are still worn in a number of countries in Europe, and the European Court of Justice provides its judges with impressive if not glamorous robes. No disadvantages appear to flow from these practices.

My experience, after many years of association with foreign lawyers, judges, legal academics and clients, is that our legal robes are greatly admired abroad, as adding to the dignity of the proceedings.

The public does not want any mere symbol of commitment to reform by lawyers abandoning their wigs, as suggested by Mr Pannick. It wants action to produce a fair, efficient and dignified system. It does not want a false atmosphere of informality introduced into public trials which, in reality, are serious occasions.

To claim that dispensing with robes is a positive step towards useful reform, in the light of the problems facing the profession, would be to attract criticism if not derision.

For centuries it has been part of English tradition that judges and lawyers wear wigs and gowns. That same tradition requires robes and uniforms for a wide range of public offices and functions.

The English have an enviable reputation as masters of ceremony. If wigs and gowns go, so much else may follow, from royal robes, perhaps, to the balaclava and the policeman's helmet. It is worth asking what such abolitions would achieve.

Yours faithfully,
PETER JACKSON,
3 Pump Court, Temple, EC4.
April 25.

From Mr Alan Bati

Sir, It has been a long time since I donned a wig and gown, but I never found my wig an "itchy symbol of a bygone age", as David Pannick suggests. The gown was admittedly uncomfortable in courts designed in a time when the only air-conditioner was a hand-held fan. But it was only uncomfortable because below it one (males, at least) wore a three-piece suit, wing-collar, and bands.

The wig and gown may be quaint, but they are also distinctive — the hallmarks of British advocates. It may be a sad reflection on society that we need such accoutrements to enhance the dignity of an occasion but I believe we do: their absence from the USA has hardly raised respect for the American legal profession.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BATT,
Azabu Towers #304,
2-1-3 Azabudai,
Minato-ku, Tokyo 106, Japan.
April 27.

From Miss Anne Louise Davies

Sir, I applaud David Pannick's article about the absurdity of barristers' wigs and gowns. As one who has recently purchased both, dare I suggest that when judges consider their abolition they should consult impecunious pupils?

A wig costs £340, a gown over £100. Many pupils must borrow money for these items and would welcome their abolition.

Yours hopefully,
ANNE LOUISE DAVIES
(Pupil barrister),
The Patio Flat,
32a Cornwall Gardens, SW7.
April 24.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Talking proper, in and out of class

From Mr R. E. Allen

Sir, Your leader of April 22, "Logic of grammar", confuses linguistic correctness and social acceptability. Grammar is a codification of usage — or rather, of usages — and not a set of abstract principles to which all language must conform, like some kind of Mosaic law. We all use different grammars in different domains: "she came yesterday" is as valid a usage in certain localities and social contexts as "she came yesterday" is in so-called standard English.

It is of course right that children should learn the form of English that is most socially acceptable, but they should realise that this is what standard English is, and that there are other varieties. It is not right that a social or intellectual elite should tell the rest of the linguistic community that these other varieties are "incorrect".

As for logic, this is rarely discernible in grammar and still less in idiom, and most language-use is based on what is idiomatic and natural.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT ALLEN,
10 Stapleton Road,
Headington, Oxford.
April 23.

From Ms Shona Walton

Sir, Your leading article contained a number of misrepresentations and inaccuracies. Members of this association have always believed that all pupils have the right to know how to speak and write standard British English and be able to use it properly when the occasion requires, and to suggest otherwise is the very opposite of the truth. Indeed, many of us are the examiners who mind about grammar and spelling.

The National Foundation for Educational Research has published a rigorous and comprehensive study of reading standards. This found no evidence of a decline in the reading standards of most children, but a worrying fall since 1985 in the standards being reached by the lowest-attaining pupils — those already having difficulty.

The NEER report found no correlation between this fall and particular teaching methods or type of school. There was a strong correlation, however, with social deprivation in inner urban areas. This is of great concern to all of us, because these children are the ones most in need of individual support and specialist teaching, which schools and local education authorities can no longer afford to provide.

In contrast, there is clear evidence of rising standards at GCSE, A and A/S levels, with more pupils achieving higher grades in all these examinations than ever before. For example, last year 440,000 candidates obtained a GCSE in English Literature — almost twice as many as in 1988, when the examination was introduced.

Town hall review

From Mr John A. Spence

Sir, Douglas Broom's article, "High cost of reform forces rethink over single-tier councils" (April 21), is interesting, as research emerging from studies undertaken as a result of the government's proposed review of local government is impressively in favour of counties as unitary authorities and should provide a clear guidance to the Local Government Commission. Counties as single-tier authorities would also be the least costly reforms.

Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte's analysis of the implications of the government's proposals for Wales on the four counties of South Wales showed that its preference for district unitary authorities would cost an additional £31.4 million in the first year and £13.4 million in subsequent years, whereas the four counties as unitary authorities would save £2 million in the first year and £13 million in subsequent years.

The Association of County Councils estimates that county-based unitary authorities in England would save £600 million each year. This figure is based on preserving the 39 counties which at present carry 88 per cent of the cost of local services against a redistribution to the 296 districts with 12 per cent of the cost.

Of course the fatal flaw in the

unpublished discussion paper to which you refer was produced by the Language in the National Curriculum Project, and was not "a study commissioned by government". Its authors neither produced a report nor made findings.

The purpose of the paper was to help teachers to increase and make more effective their knowledge of our language and it was praised by the then minister of state, Mr Tim Eggar, in letters to myself among many others. The government's reasons for not making written materials designed for the training of teachers more widely available were its fears that they might be badly or inappropriately used outside the context of the in-service training programme. The minister supported their continued use in this context.

Your editorial does a disservice to the language and to young people by trivialising the issues. It is easy to set up ill-founded Aunt Sallys and much harder to help young people to a confident, adaptable knowledge of the languages they will need for adulthood.

Yours faithfully,
SHONA WALTON
(Vice-Chairman),
National Association for the Teaching of English,
Birley School, Fox Lane,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

From the General Secretary of the Society of Education Officers

Sir, The majority of educationists will support you in your defence of the teaching of grammar and spelling and will share your concern about the disadvantages for those who are not able to speak and write standard English.

For young children, however, there has to be a balance between encouraging the flow of ideas and expression and the grammatical accuracy of that expression. Rigour, which must come, can come later in school life.

Good teachers recognise this and develop accuracy after expression has come to flow freely; but they fight a constant battle against sloppy presentation by popular newspapers and some television programmes and advertisements. Did the rot set in with "Orinka, pinta milka day"? As at least one TV star would say "It sold a lotta milk".

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS HATFIELD,
General Secretary,
Society of Education Officers,
20 Bedford Way, WC1.
April 22.

From Dr J. N. Fawcett

Sir, Your comment that "one in four 16 to 20-year-olds have difficulty in reading" shows a singular disregard for the logic of English grammar.

Yours faithfully,
J. NEVILLE FAWCETT,
5 Kingsland, Jesmond,
Newcastle upon Tyne.
April 23.

argument for 296 unitary districts is that they could not be unitary, as the counties could be, but would be dependent on such services as police, fire, highways, libraries, magistrates' courts, probation and emergency planning going to a jumble of joint boards: a move that had led in London to "blurred" public accountability and interminable squabbling as boroughs of different political complexions fight for control.

Joint boards, apart from being unelected and unaccountable, are more expensive. Take police as an example. When the six metropolitan counties were abolished their services were not transferred to the boroughs but to joint boards, and government has had to increase police expenditure by 14 per cent in comparison to 7 per cent for other services.

Not only would 296 unitary districts be dependent on joint boards but some further joint structure would be needed for strategic planning, education, social services, trading standards and other services.

Where would the public look to for accountability?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. SPENCE
(Chairman, Finance, Information and Review Group),
Kent County Council,
County Hall, Maidstone, Kent.
April 23.

Elgin Marbles

From Mr A. R. A. Hobson

Sir, I suggest that two principles should influence any decision about the Parthenon marbles (letters, April 13, 16, 20, 27).

The first is that any country has the right to own the supreme work of art produced by its native genius. We should have cause to be sad if Salisbury, Ely, Lincoln and Durham cathedrals had been given away in the early 19th century and re-erected in a foreign country.

During the French Revolution the Psalter of St Louis found its way from Paris to St Petersburg. After 1815 Tsar Alexander I gave it back, an example of magnanimity that deserves to be remembered.

The second is that the greatest works of art should be shown in a context that will allow them to have the most intense aesthetic effect. The marbles cannot be re-erected on the Parthenon and must, for the time being, be displayed indoors. Even so they cannot fail to make a greater impact when seen on the Acropolis within a few yards of the building

they were created to decorate than in the grey north, 1,500 miles away.

This does not mean that every, or indeed any other work of art should be returned to its country of origin. The Parthenon marbles are a special, a unique case. Nevertheless, to avoid legal difficulties and the creation of a precedent, the trustees of the British Museum, while retaining ownership, could place the marbles on permanent loan in Athens.

I trust the Greek authorities would respond by offering to place permanently in London an object of comparable (if not equal) importance, but one not linked to a known site in Greece. I have in mind the bronze standing figure of Poseidon in the National Museum, that was dredged up from the sea off Euboea in 1928.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
A. R. A. HOBSON,
The Glebe House,
Whitbury,
Fordingbridge, Hampshire.
April 27.

Taking over a going concern

From Mr William Knight

Sir, If any of my executive search neighbours here in St James's Square had been assigned the task of finding a new chief executive for a highly successful Chinese trading and manufacturing concern employing a talented, predominantly Chinese, workforce of six million people, they would probably not have chosen a man with no trading or business experience let alone knowledge of Chinese or China. (China will take over management control within five years.)

Evidently the executive committee responsible for the current management believes that the main task of the new chief executive is to deal with the politics of a changing corporate culture brought about by the impending change of management.

Strangely, the very success of the concern has been a result of its lack of internal (and external) politics and its dedication to commercial success, which incidentally has been of enormous benefit over many years to its future controllers. Its future corporate objectives are likely therefore to be to continue on a path dedicated to produce even greater benefits for its future owners and its own employees and to avoid politics.

Since the new chief executive is a politician through and through, it would seem sensible if the specialists in executive search were now given the task of finding him a suitably qualified local deputy to assist him in his work.

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM KNIGHT,
William Knight Associates
(Development finance consultancy),
23 St James's Square, SW1.
April 25.

Hospital deaths

From the Director of the Office of Health Economics

Sir, Particularly during the general election campaign, a picture was often presented of an NHS collapsing through lack of resources. It is therefore interesting to look at some evidence from the newly published report from the National Confidential Enquiry into Perioperative Deaths ("Holidays and weekends are the worst time to be ill", April 22) covering 1990.

Of the 2,558 deaths investigated, 2,474 patients had been admitted without delay. It was reported that delay in admission had affected the surgical outcome in 25 cases (1 per cent). The patient had a previous admission cancelled in only 13 out of the 2,558 cases.

Thus, although any avoidable death is of course a tragedy, the overall picture from the figures does not justify all the "shroud waving" to which the government has been subjected. Extra resources are needed, but to improve the quality of care rather than to avoid collapse.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE TEELING SMITH,
Director,
Office of Health Economics,
12 Whitehall, SW1.

History lesson

From Mr Dillwyn Miles

Sir, Are we now so unaware of our past that the Post Office has found it necessary, on the new commemorative stamps (photographs, April 22), to inform us that the Civil War, 1642-51, was "fought between the forces of King and Parliament"?

Yours faithfully,
DILLWYN MILES,
Hendre, 9 St Anthony's Way,
Haverfordwest, Dyfed.

A golden standard

From Mr R. M. Maxtone Graham

Sir, Dr Terence Barnett (letter, April 22) asks what has remained at pre-war cost. A short pre-war telegram cost a shilling (5p). This fax (surely the telegram of the Nineties) will add 4.95p to my telephone bill.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MAXTONE GRAHAM,
6 Moat Sole,
Sandwich, Kent
April 22.

Toil and soil

From Ms Amanda Breeze

Sir, Mr Kirch (letter, April 30) need weed no more if he were to deprive his weeds of light. A 2 to 3-inch-thick layer of mulch such as forest bark, gravel or lawn mowings laid over the bed will deter all but the most stubborn of weeds.

Yours faithfully,
AMANDA BREEZE,
Old Farmhouse,
Cramond Brig, Edinburgh 4.
April 21.

capital offences

From Mr J. K. Hardy

Sir, Townsend letter today refers stop suggest go whole hog stop abolish needless words punctuation capitals stop all write telegraph lingo stop save time money ink paper stop times then half page long stop

Yours faithfully
J K Hardy
44k waldron road
earlsfield sw18
April 23

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 27: The Duke of Edinburgh, Trustee of the Council, attended a Council Meeting and Luncheon at St George's House, Windsor, today.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 27: The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, this morning attended the launch of Save the Children Week 1992 at Church House Conference Centre, Church House, Dean's Yard, London SW1, and was received by the Right Hon the Lord Mayor of Westminster (Dame Shirley Porter).

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 27: The Prince of Wales this morning received the Director of the Crofters' Union (Mr George Campbell).

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 27: Princess Alice, Duchess

of Gloucester, Patron, the Girls' Public Day School Trust, today received Lady Johnston on relinquishing her position as Chairman of the Trust.

YORK HOUSE
April 27: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, today attended a luncheon hosted by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Right Hon Douglas Hurd, at 1 Carlton Gardens, London SW1.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
April 26: Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus Ogilvy arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, this evening from Washington.



The ruins of Mount Grace Priory, North Yorkshire, once the home of the Carthusians

Today's royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will inspect the Queen's Regiment at Windsor Castle at noon.

The Princess of Wales will open the Riddings Park Community Centre at The Park, Riddings, Derbyshire, at 11.25; will visit the Whitmore Day Centre at John O'Gaunt Way, Belper, at 12.35; will visit the Babbington Hospital Day Unit, Belper, at 2.15; and, as Patron of the British Red Cross Youth, will open the Red Cross Centre at Babbington Hospital at 3.10.

The Duke of York will open the new extension to the High School, Bebbington, at 11.20; will visit Moreton Community Centre, Moreton, at 1.20; and will attend an open day at 'Mariners' Park, Wallasey, at 2.00 on behalf of the National Union of Marine Association and Shipping Transport Officers. The Princess Royal, as President of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will attend a careers meeting at St David's Hall, Cardiff, at 10.10; will visit the Priory, Cardiff, at 11.30; and will open the Principally Building Society and the County Music Department

and unveil a commemorative plaque will open the annual conference of the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives at St David's Hall at 2.00; and, as President of Riding for the Disabled Association, will open the new holiday accommodation at the Clwyd Special Riding Centre, Llanfynydd, Wrexham, at 3.35.

Princess Margaret will attend the gala premiere of *Howard's End* at the Curzon Cinema, Mayfair, at 8.15 in aid of Material Aid, a Child Welfare and the Variety Club of Great Britain.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester will attend a concert given by the National Trust at the Festival Hall at 7.20 in aid of the Stowe Landscape Gardens Appeal. The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron of St Peter's Research Trust, will open the new St Peter's Hospital, the Specialist Centre for Urology and Kidney Disease, at the Middlesex Hospital site at 3.00.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS Edward IV, reigned 1461-70, 1471-83, died 1483, James Monroe, 5th president of the USA 1817-25, Westmoreland County, Virginia, 1758; Charles Stuart, explorer in Australia, Bengal, 1761; Anthony Ashley Cooper, 1st Earl Shaftesbury, social reformer, London, 1801.

DEATHS Gilbert A. Becker, comic writer, Bologna, 1856; Count Johann von Brinck, fleet physician and politician, executed, Copenhagen, 1792; Sir

Charles Bell, surgeon, North Hallow, Wiltshire, 1842; Sir Augustus Custard, shipowner, London, 1865; Benito Mussolini, executed by partisans, Giuliodi di Mezzegra, 1945; Richard Hughes, novelist, Harlech, 1976; Fenner Brockway, Baron Fenner Brockway, politician and pacifist, 1988.

Unity Hall

A memorial service for Unity Hall will be held at St Brigid's, Fleet Street, on Wednesday, May 20, at noon.

Revealing rich rewards for 'Christ's Poor Men'

AN archaeological excavation at Mount Grace Priory, North Yorkshire, has unearthed surprising new evidence about the lifestyle of its 15th-century Carthusian occupants, hitherto known as 'Christ's Poor Men'.

The excavation is the final stage of a research programme begun by English Heritage in 1985 in an attempt to throw more light on the Carthusian order, whose severe medieval austerity is traditionally characterised by the wearing of hair shirts, a vegetarian diet and a solemn contempt for the excesses of rival orders.

Founded in 1398 by a nephew of Richard II at a time when the Carthusians were an especially favoured order, Mount Grace Priory is the best preserved and most accessible of the nine priories built in England by the Carthusians and the last monastic establishment in Yorkshire before the Reformation.

Surrounded by Clisterian monasteries at Rievaulx, Fountains and Jervaulx abbeys, it was, like its neighbours, looted and closed in 1539 during Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries.

The Carthusians. We already knew they were proud of the fact that they wore hair shirts when they did not have to, and they did not eat meat.

"But we have learned that there was clearly a difference between monks being poor and monks being rich. Our findings show that Mount Grace was quite a wealthy monastery."

The final phase of English Heritage's research programme, an archaeological excavation of the kitchen, is nearing completion. Among the cockroaches in the "black sticky gunge" under the last kitchen floor, the archaeologists have found the remains of fish, bread and a 500-year-old skeleton of a chub.

"The chub and thousands of sea-fish bones we found have surprised us more than anything," said Mr Coppock. "We did not realise until now that fish made up such a great part of their diet. And they obviously had the money to pay for food to be delivered from the coast 30 miles away."

"But what we have discovered during this excavation is that they had a very good quality of accommodation and life - they even had their own brew house and drank up to eight pints of beer a day - which goes against what we had always thought about

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Birthdays today

Lady Helen Windsor celebrates her birthday today.

Mr Ian Beer, former headmaster, Harrow School, 61; Professor Hugh Bentall, cardiologist, 72; the Earl of Breadalbane and Holland, 73; Mr Mike Beasley, cricketer and psychoanalyst, 50; Baroness Carnegy of Lour, 67; Sir Ivor Cohen, chairman, Remploy, 61; Commander Elizabeth Craig-McCarty, former director, WRNS, 65; Mr Duane Eddy, guitarist, 54; Mr Tony Ford, director, Craft Council, 54; Mrs Odette Hallows, GC, wartime agent, 80; Mr Kenneth Kaunda, former president, Zambia, 68; Miss Nicola LeFanu, composer, 45; Mr Justice Leonard, 66; Earl Lloyd George of Dwyfor, 68; Mr M.D. Longfield, director, Tesco, 68; Mr John Macdonald, 68; Mr Geoffrey Tate, conductor, 49; Mr J.L. Thorn, former headmaster, Winchester College, 67; Mr Gary Weston, chairman, Associated British Foods, 66; Mrs Helen Williams, high mistress, St Paul's Girls' School, 54; the Ven Sam Woodhouse, former Archbishop of London, 80.

Churcher's College
Summer Term commences on Tuesday, April 28, and ends on Friday, July 10. The Old Churchmen's Club London Dinner will be held at the East India Club on Friday, May 1, and the Club will play the 1st XI in the annual Cricket Match on Saturday, June 27, starting at 11.00am. Open Day will be held on Saturday, July 4 from 9.30am until 1.00pm and Sports Day is July 7.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.I. Church and Miss J.S. Gardiner
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, elder son of Mrs Victoria Church and the late Dr Christopher Gareth Church, of Keighley, West Yorkshire, and Joanne, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Gardiner, of Beardsden, Glasgow.

Mr I. Cowdry and Miss C.M. English
The engagement is announced between Ian, only son of the late Mr George Cowdry and of Mrs Joyce Cowdry, of Hildenborough, Kent, and Catherine, daughter of the late Mr F.W. English and of Mrs M. English, of Sevenoaks, Kent.

Mr R.M. Durkin and Dr A.C. Humphreys
The engagement is announced between Robert Myles, elder son of Mr and Mrs M. Durkin, of Ecclesall, Sheffield, and Alison Claire, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs K.W. Humphreys, of Meltham, Cambridgeshire.

Mr M.A. Edwards and Miss J.A. Duncanson
The engagement is announced between Mark Adrian, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Edwards, of Malvern, Worcestershire, and Juliet Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs Norman Duncanson, of Studham, Bedfordshire.

Dr C.D.J. Evans and Miss A.I. Buckner
The engagement is announced between Christopher, only son of Mr and Mrs Colin Evans, of 1 Netherby Road, Edinburgh, and Aveline, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Buckner, of West Malling, Kent.

Mr M.C. Headlam-Morley and Miss N.M. Davies
The engagement is announced between Crispin (Chris), youngest son of the late Kenneth Headlam-Morley, OBE, and of Lorna Headlam-Morley, of Field House, Whorlton, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham, and Nicola (Niki) Lawrence, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Davies, of Wychwell, Lyndridge Green, Stowling, Kent.

Lieutenant J.E.H. Lambert, RN and Lieutenant M.J. Pearson, WRNS
The engagement is announced between James, son of the late Mr D.H. Lambert and of Mrs H. Lambert, of Lymington, Surrey, and Mary Jane, elder daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel B.R. Pearson and of Mrs L.R. Pearson, of Grouville, Jersey.

Captain A.C.J. McCord and Miss C.A. Airey
The engagement is announced between Captain Andrew McCord, The Royal Irish Rangers (27th Inniskilling Bn and 87th), youngest son of Brigadier and Mrs Mervyn McCord, and Caroline Ann, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Airey.

Mr P.J.F. Ravery and Miss M.B. Kippstein
The engagement is announced between Pascal, son of Mr and Mrs Pierre Ravery, of Senlis, France, and Michele, daughter of Mr and Mrs Karl-Henrich Kippstein, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Mr N.R.D. Wallace and Miss A.M.G. Izal
The engagement is announced between Neil, younger son of the late Mr Graeme Wallace and of Mrs Graeme Wallace, of Launceston, Cornwall, and Anne, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Scott Izal, of Farnham St Peter, Norfolk.

Marriage
Mr G.H. Morlock and Miss K.R. Reeves
The marriage took place on Sunday at St John the Baptist's Church, Whittington, Shropshire, between Mr Guy Morlock, son of Mr and Mrs Philip Morlock, and Miss Katie Reeves, daughter of Mr Jonathan Reeves and Mrs Jeremy Cate. The Rev David North officiated.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Rebecca and Gemma Torrance and Daisy Dugmore. Mr Justin Goad was best man. A reception was held at Halston and the honeymoon will be spent on the Continent.

Expensive move

By JOHN SHAW

A CHESS set made in Augsburg in the 1720s, could become the most expensive in the world when it is sold at Sotheby's in London on December 12.

The wooden board is veneered with tortoiseshell and boudoir marquetry of chinoiserie and exotic animals. The pieces are equally unusual, with the kings and queens made of Meissen porcelain.

Sotheby's has estimated its value at between £250,000 and £350,000. The auction record for a chess set and any games board is £300,000, set at Sotheby's in London in April last year. It was paid for

an amber board and pieces by Georges Koenigsberg, signed and dated Königsberg, 1616.

The present object, intended to be more a work of art than something actually used as a game, was believed to have been given by Frederick Augustus III (1750-1827) to Comte Louis-Gabriel Duke de Saxe-Morigny (1723-1787), a French diplomat who was appointed to Frederick's court in 1772.

It was handed over that year, according to tradition, and has passed down the same family ever since. The present owners wish to remain anonymous.

Telephone 071 481 4000

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Telefax 071 782 7827

Come let us return to the Lord after two days he will revive us, on the third day he will raise us to live in his presence.
Hebrew 1:3

BIRTHS

BEBBINGTON - On March 25th, to Margaret, wife of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bebbington, a son, Alexander Paul.

BRENTNALL - On April 23rd, to Mr. and Mrs. Brentnall, a son, Samuel Brentnall.

DENNIS - On April 23rd, to Mr. and Mrs. Dennis, a son, Christopher Dennis.

DILKS - On Friday April 17th, to Mr. and Mrs. Dilks, a son, Benjamin Dilks.

FIELD - On April 13th, to Mr. and Mrs. Field, a son, Charles Henry Joseph.

FINLAYSON - On April 20th, to Mr. and Mrs. Finlayson, a son, Ian Finlayson.

FORSYTH - On April 25th, to Mr. and Mrs. Forsyth, a daughter, Hannah Elizabeth.

GARCIA - On Easter Sunday, April 19th, to Mr. and Mrs. Garcia, a son, Benjamin Garcia.

GREENBURY - On April 23rd, to Mr. and Mrs. Greenbury, a son, John Greenbury.

HEYBURN - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Heyburn, a son, Thomas Heyburn.

LYTTON COBOLD - On April 23rd, to Mr. and Mrs. Lytton Cobold, a son, Edward Lytton Cobold.

MARIANI - On April 16th, to Mr. and Mrs. Mariani, a son, Nicholas Mariani.

MCDONNELL - On April 21st, to Mr. and Mrs. McDonnell, a son, Michael McDonnell.

SCHNEIDER - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Schneider, a son, Robert Schneider.

SELBY - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Selby, a daughter, Leona Selby.

STEWART-BROWN - On April 22nd, to Mr. and Mrs. Stewart-Brown, a son, Ronald Stewart-Brown.

SWEET-ESCOTT - On April 22nd, to Mr. and Mrs. Sweet-Escott, a daughter, Eleanor Sweet-Escott.

WEDMORE - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Wedmore, a daughter, a sister to Sarah and Caroline.

WHITALL-WILLIAMS - On April 23rd, to Mr. and Mrs. Whitall-Williams, a son, Charles Whitall-Williams.

WOOD - On April 23rd, to Mr. and Mrs. Wood, a son, Alexander Wood.

YAMAKAWA - On April 23rd, to Mr. and Mrs. Yamakawa, a son, Yuki Yamakawa.

BARCLAY - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Barclay, a son, Thomas Barclay.

BOYD - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, a son, Ian Boyd.

BOYD - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, a daughter, Hannah Boyd.

BOYD - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, a son, Ian Boyd.

BOYD - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, a daughter, Hannah Boyd.

BOYD - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, a son, Ian Boyd.

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BOYD - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, a son, Ian Boyd.

BOYD - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, a daughter, Hannah Boyd.

BOYD - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, a son, Ian Boyd.

ATTWOOD - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Attwood, a son, Ian Attwood.

BAISH - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Baish, a son, Ian Baish.

BAISH - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Baish, a daughter, Hannah Baish.

BAISH - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Baish, a son, Ian Baish.

BAISH - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Baish, a daughter, Hannah Baish.

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BAISH - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Baish, a daughter, Hannah Baish.

BAISH - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Baish, a son, Ian Baish.

BRAND - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Brand, a son, Ian Brand.

BRAND - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Brand, a daughter, Hannah Brand.

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BRAND - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Brand, a son, Ian Brand.

BRAND - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Brand, a daughter, Hannah Brand.

GIEVE - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Gieve, a son, Ian Gieve.

GIEVE - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Gieve, a daughter, Hannah Gieve.

GIEVE - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Gieve, a son, Ian Gieve.

GIEVE - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Gieve, a daughter, Hannah Gieve.

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GIEVE - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Gieve, a daughter, Hannah Gieve.

GIEVE - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Gieve, a son, Ian Gieve.

GIEVE - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Gieve, a daughter, Hannah Gieve.

KINSEY - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Kinsey, a son, Ian Kinsey.

KINSEY - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Kinsey, a daughter, Hannah Kinsey.

KINSEY - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Kinsey, a son, Ian Kinsey.

KINSEY - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Kinsey, a daughter, Hannah Kinsey.

KINSEY - On April 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. Kinsey, a

**MARIAN
MIESOWICZ**

Chatham Dining Club
Sir Gilbert Longden presided at a dinner of the Chatham Dining Club held last night at the St Ermin's Hotel. The Hon William Waldegrave, MP, was the principal guest.

Freight Transport Association
Mr A.G. Lafone, President of the Freight Transport Association, presided at the annual dinner held last night at the London Hilton on Park Lane. Mr Bill Morris, General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, was the principal guest.

Shops staff seek better pay bargain

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

PAY negotiators from the shopworkers and distribution union, Usdaw, had their highest settlements for seven years in 1991, yet many members still earn less than half of Britain's average wage of £284.70 a week.

Delegates at the union's 46th annual conference at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, next week, will face continued demands from members for better-than-inflation rises this year, despite the squeeze on company profits.

The union's ability to deliver will be crucial if it is to stem a 5.6 per cent fall in membership to 341,389 last year.

Shop work has never been well paid. But last year only sales assistants at Harrods and Selfridges were on basic rates above the union's target minimum of £160 a week.

The level of settlements varied according to when they were achieved. Inflation, measured by the retail price index, fell from 9 per cent in January to 4.5 per cent in December. Deals negotiated earlier in the year tended to be the highest.

However, some were affected by special factors. Adam Goldman of Industrial Relations Services, the pay re-

searcher, said some poorly paid women benefited from moves by employers towards equal pay and revaluation of jobs. But some shop assistants in the worst hit sectors, including fashion and furniture, had pay freezes, or even lost their jobs.

A trawl through the deals provides an intriguing picture. A senior funeral director at the Co-operative Wholesale Society received a 9.85 per cent rise last year, taking his basic pay to £13,435 — £1,654 below national average annual earnings.

Co-op lorry drivers are paid according to vehicle weight. After last year's 10 per cent rise, drivers of vehicles up to 7.38 tonnes earn a basic £146.19, while drivers of 32-38 tonne lorries earn £162.51.

At Tesco, the same driver could have been earning £227.18 after a similar 10 per cent increase. A cook at Tesco earns £168.13 and a warehouse worker £142.52.

Manufacturing workers had lower rises, but their pay tends to be higher. An agreement with Kellogg's, the American breakfast cereal maker, produced basic rates for workers in Wrexham between £219.89 and £294.68.



Unpromising outlook: ABF's Weston reports interim profits down by £9.9m

ABF profits cut back a slice

ASSOCIATED British Foods, the Sumblest, Twinings and British Sugar group, blames increased competition and cuts in interest rates for lower pre-tax profits in the six months to March 14 (Colin Campbell writes).

Lower net cash balances, down from £400 million to £350 million, interest rates of 10.5 per cent compared with 16.5 per cent previously, and a tough economic background left pre-tax profits £9.9 million lower at £175.2 million.

Garry Weston, chairman,

says: "While we do not anticipate any further significant deterioration, neither do we yet see evidence of an immediate improvement."

Unless the economies in which the group operates recover significantly, second-half profits will, at best, equal those earned in the second half of the previous year.

The interim dividend is held at 8.5p a share. In Britain and Europe, sales increased 19 per cent and the trading surplus 37 per cent, which included six months'

contribution from British Sugar. However, bakery profits suffered from wide-spread discounting. Mr Weston said ABF remains committed to its bread operations, and that it had maintained a 33 per cent share of the wrapped and sliced bread market.

ABF has written off £10.6 million against its 21 per cent stake in Biscuits International, for which it originally paid 100p a share, valuing its holding at market value.

Times, page 18

Dividend increased at Molyneux Holdings

By Philip Pangalos

MOLYNX Holdings, the closed circuit television and environmental control group, has matched the forecast made with last October's rights issue, with a 13.8 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £1.92 million in the year to the end of December.

The proceeds from the £5.5 million cash call were used to fund two acquisitions, one in America and one in Germany, and to reduce group borrowings. Eric Walters, chairman, said the newly acquired companies have "settled in well".

Group turnover advanced 41 per cent to £22 million. The final dividend rises to 2.7p, from 2.5p last time, giving an improved total of 4p for the year, against 3.75p. Earnings fell 9 per cent to 10.7p a share, from 11.8p a share last time, which is restated to reflect the dilutive effect of the rights issue.

Mr Walters said 1992 has started with some signs of economic recovery in the group's UK closed-circuit television markets, but building energy management systems companies have been affected by the depressed property market. "The first half looks tough, but we shall, as ever, give a good account of ourselves in the full year," he added.

Molynx shares firmed 1p to 84p, against last October's rights issue price of 88p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Dares Estates holds talks with bankers

DARES Estates, whose 1991 accounts carry an auditors' qualification, admitted that it was in breach of various banking covenants in the year ended December, and said it had made a £17.76 million exceptional provision covering property writedowns and the costs of refinancing negotiations with its bankers.

The pre-tax loss for the year was £28.5 million compared with a previous loss of £30.5 million. Net assets at year-end had fallen from £40.4 million to £7.41 million and, therefore, under the Companies Act, an extraordinary meeting has been called for January 1. No dividend can be declared on the ordinary shares, and none is proposed for the convertible preference shares. Ervin Landau, chairman, said that Dares was talking to its bankers about breaches of covenants. He added that the company's future depended wholly on a recovery in the economy and in the property market. Shares traded at 2½p.

Serif deeper in red

SERIF COWELL, the printing and packaging group that makes the boards and cards for Trivial Pursuit, has plunged deeper into the red after a year of restructuring and disposals. It reported a pre-tax loss of £2.3 million in the year to December compared with a profit of £1.3 million in the previous period. Turnover was £34.4 million (£62 million). There is no final dividend. Much of the downturn in sales was due to loss of the licences to distribute Trivial Pursuit and Nintendo. The shares were trading at 7p yesterday.

Wensum profits slip

THE Wensum Company, a supplier of clothing to corporate customers and retailers, has reported seeing signs of renewed activity in the high street. The company announced pre-tax profits for the year to January 25 of £607,000, down 19 per cent. The final dividend was maintained at 2.35p, making an unchanged 3.5p for the year. Turnover fell from £8.9 million to £7.6 million. Trading profits from Wensum Clothing fell from £490,000 to £261,000, while profits from Wensum Corporate rose slightly to £486,000.

Seaborne trade boost

SEABORNE trade from Europe to the Far East and Latin America will be the fastest growing trade routes at least until 1996, according to a global survey by DRI, an economic consultancy, and TBS Transportation. Trade to the Far East will outstrip transatlantic and transatlantic containerised cargo business because of the stronger economic prospects of the Far East. The trade forecasts assume an economic recovery in America and real GDP growth in Europe of 2.2 per cent this year.

Invisible earnings up

BRITAIN'S invisible earnings, which generated £32 billion in 1991 from export services and accounted for 57 per cent of gross domestic product, are likely to rise this year due to improved business and economic confidence. A survey by British Invisibles, a private sector organisation, and AT Kearney, an international management consultant, concludes there is a growing mood of optimism among those involved in tourism, shipping and financial services. More than 80 companies in nine sectors were surveyed in January.

Rothschild retained

NM Rothschild, the London merchant banker, has been retained by Goldbelt Resources, a metals exploration group based in Canada, to raise £40 million for the development of a gold project in Kazakhstan in the Commonwealth of Independent States. Goldbelt has rights to 136 million tonnes of tailings that are estimated to contain 2.7 million oz of gold and 20.7 million oz of silver. Over the first ten years of a 25-year project life, production is expected to be 924,000 oz of gold and 5.74 million oz of silver.

Jo Walker losses soar

JO WALKER & Co was the latest casualty of the depressed state of the housing market, as the timber importer and building materials group passed its final dividend (2p) after full-year losses deepened. The Leicester-based company saw pre-tax losses jump to £467,210 in the year to end December, against £36,342 last time. Group turnover declined from £15.1 million to £13.9 million. The loss per share surged to 37.8p, against a deficit of 3.8p a share last time. The company did not pay an interim dividend.

Investors unsure of Bosch bid

By Wolfgang Mönchau

A MINORITY group of shareholders in Worcester Group, the boiler maker, has expressed reservation about the price that Bosch, the German industrial company, has offered for the company.

Despite these reservations, shareholders are unlikely to launch any formal action against the agreed bid, and may favour remaining minority shareholders unless they receive an improved offer. Bosch has secured irrevocable undertakings in respect of just over 50 per cent of the shares, and the deal is therefore likely to go ahead at the current valuation of £71.8 million, or 225p per share.

The dissenting shareholders, which include Scottish Amicable, Standard Life, and Eagle Star, could prove a nuisance to Bosch and Worcester's management if they can muster support of at least 25 per cent of the votes. From such a position, the holders could play an active part in what most of them still consider to be a highly profitable business, or to be bought out eventually by Bosch at a higher price.

The future over Bosch's bid is caused by the 38.4 per cent stake in Worcester held by its own management. Under the deal, the management will continue to hold an equity stake, of 32.3 per cent, in the new group. Some shareholders fear that the management, led by Cecil Duckworth, chairman, chief executive and largest individual shareholder, has not paid high enough regard to their interests.

Payout up at Smith Estates

By Our City Staff

DESPITE the depressed state of the property sector, James Smith Estates is rewarding shareholders with an increased dividend after the property investment group achieved a small rise in full-year profits. The Unlisted Securities Market shares advanced by 7p to 80p.

Pre-tax profits climbed 2.2 per cent to £1.19 million in the year ended March 24, despite increased borrowings to fund purchases and sharply reduced sales of flats on long leases.

Stephen Mulliner, the chairman, attributed the company's performance to "the high quality of its commercial property portfolio and a low level of borrowings". Gearing stood at 28 per cent.

Gross rental income advanced by 23.5 per cent to £2.01 million, with the commercial property portfolio expected to continue to show significant reversionary growth.

The final dividend is being raised to 2.5p, against 2.2p last time, giving an increased total of 3.75p for the year, against 3.3p for the comparable period. Earnings per share edge up from 5.0p to 5.1p a share.

The group's properties were revalued by the directors at £27.4 million, representing a decline of 8.8 per cent. The company said the decline in capital value reflects generally higher commercial property yields. Net assets per share fell 9.6 per cent to 133p (147.1p).



SUN ALLIANCE

EXTRACTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

The year 1991 was the worst in the history of British insurance. In the United Kingdom there has been the most damaging recession since the War. Whilst the Gulf crisis, the reshaping of Europe, world-wide debt problems and the US budget deficit have contributed to the weakness of the global economy, the sharpness of the setback in the UK economy is in some measure due to local causes. As a consequence, having the largest proportion of UK business among the British composite insurers, Sun Alliance has suffered most severely.

UK Business

The weakness of industrial output and retail trade put limits on premium income, and claims, both genuine and in some cases fraudulent, were recorded at a disproportionate rate. Irresponsible underwriting and cut-throat competition on the part of other insurers has also contributed to a state of affairs in which the cost of claims has moved far out of line with premium rates.

Some of these factors recur as a result of the well-recognised phenomenon of the insurance underwriting cycle. Our recent losses have also been compounded by the rapid growth of unemployment and the collapse of the housing market and, as a direct consequence, an epidemic of mortgage indemnity insurance claims. This is a class of business in which we have been involved for many years through our long and valuable connections with the principal building societies which in turn has enabled us to write a great deal of household and personal insurance.

There is no doubt that the relaxation of regulatory restrictions and an uncontrolled money supply led in recent years to a degree of competition amongst lenders in which many advances were made without sufficient care to assess the credit-worthiness of the individual borrower.

However, our premium rates for mortgage indemnity business have now been significantly increased. Changes are also being made by the Government in the payment of housing benefit. Various schemes to assist borrowers have been projected, in some of which the Group is involved, and the management of arrears by lenders has become more active and effective. The rate of repossession is already falling. All these factors will tend to mitigate the future rate of losses. It is nevertheless inevitable that we shall suffer further substantial losses from this class of business in 1992.

After another dry summer we have made provision for further losses arising from subsidence. Claims were down on the previous year but still amounted to £117m. Large areas, particularly in the South East of England, remain exceptionally dry and there is little doubt that significant subsidence damage will be a continuing feature of household insurance. We have introduced a system of differential premium rates which is more rational and fair than a level rating system so that areas of high risk make a greater contribution to the cost of claims.

Overseas Business

Chubb once more produced an excellent result in the USA. Elsewhere in the world Europe

has been a difficult market, although our Danish subsidiary, Codan, has done well. We have made some selective acquisitions in Belgium and in New Zealand, where the purchase of the business of the Guardian Royal Exchange subsidiary has given us real substance.

Current Developments

Encouraging signs of global recovery are becoming apparent. Trading conditions are improving for insurers, rates are firming and we have taken strong corrective action to reduce our expenses. The completion of the reorganisation of our UK operating companies and a streamlining of our operations on a functional instead of a geographical basis will, over the years 1991 and 1992, reduce our core insurance workforce by some 8%.

We shall lose some business in the process of revising premiums and being more selective about risks, but such losses will mostly be in parts of the portfolio that show no signs of making profit.

Financial Strength

In the 1980s the Group, despite a variety of vicissitudes, gained in strength. The business of insurance is long term and we exist to help our policyholders through their own set-backs and calamities by being able to take the longer view and maintaining appropriate resources.

Underwriting losses have to be faced, but they

must be seen in the context of the total assets of the Group.

Our strength owes much to the continuing good management of the investment portfolio. After all the disasters of the past two years the Group solvency margin at 65% remains easily the most powerful among the composite companies.

The life funds produced another record return for the Group. The embedded value of our life business, which is not included in stated shareholders' funds, increased during the year.

I must pay tribute to all our staff for whom this has been a very tough year. They represent the assurance that the Group will prosper in the better times ahead.

Dividend

In the light of our financial, technological and human assets we are well placed to benefit from the improved business opportunities of 1992 and beyond. It is the Board's considered view that the relationship between Sun Alliance and its shareholders is fundamentally a long term one, to be rewarded by sound and prudent dividend growth, while maintaining ample funds to secure the interests of both shareholders and policyholders. Against this background your directors have decided to recommend that the same final dividend as in 1990 should be paid.

H.U.A. Lambert
Chairman

RESULTS FOR 1991

The audited Group results for 1991 are as follows:

	1991 £m	1990 £m
Premium income -		
General insurance	2,677.9	2,512.7
Long-term insurance	1,017.7	861.2
	3,695.6	3,373.9
Profit and loss account		
General insurance underwriting result	(833.5)	(550.8)
Long-term insurance profits	54.3	47.7
Investment and other income	313.0	322.2
Profit/(loss) before taxation	(466.2)	(180.9)
Taxation	(2.7)	(82.5)
Profit/(loss) after taxation	(463.5)	(98.4)
Minority interests	8.2	7.8
Profit/(loss) attributable to shareholders	(471.7)	106.2
Dividend	113.9	111.1
Retained profits transfer	(585.6)	(217.3)
Share capital and reserves	1,684.0	2,033.6
Earnings/(loss) per share	(59.2p)	(13.4p)
Dividend per share	14.25p	14.0p

The above statement is a summary of the year's results and does not constitute the company's statutory accounts. Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts, including an unqualified Auditors' Report, were posted to shareholders on 27th April 1992 and will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies after the Annual General Meeting to be held at 12 noon on 26th May 1992 at the Registered Office. If you are not a shareholder and would like a copy please write to the Company Secretary at the address shown below.

Sun Alliance Group plc

Registered Office: 1 Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 2AB

COMMENT

A seachange for ERM's anchor

Historical parallels should never be pushed too far, but Germany's season of industrial unrest could eventually bear comparison with the winter of discontent in Britain. Additional unions are announcing new strikes almost daily. Even the 5 per cent pay norm the government is determined to defend is exactly the same figure that took Denis Healey and James Callaghan to the stake in 1979. Above all, the whole tragicomedy is being played out against a background of near-universal political dissatisfaction that often follows a period of rapid economic expansion — and sometimes precedes a seachange in a nation's political and economic affairs.

The general assumption in the markets is that the greater the instability in Germany, the longer interest rates will stay up, and the worse will be the prospects for the rest of Europe. But this does not necessarily follow.

Sooner or later, the mark could be seriously weakened by political instability. Even high German interest rates may start to look like a mixed blessing for the mark when investors start to calculate the impact of the Bundesbank's monetary squeeze on the east German industrial subsidies and the federal government's debt servicing costs.

At some point, the markets may decide that there is only one way out of Germany's present corner. The government may have to break its 5 per cent pay norm. The Bundesbank may have to tolerate higher inflation. The mark may have to start depreciating, instead of rising, as German industry becomes internationally uncompetitive. And the markets may have to recognise that the French franc and the pound have as much right to be treated as Europe's anchor currencies as the mark.

Team complete

Private investors who ditched their British Aerospace holdings during the dark days of last year's botched rights issue may now begin to regret it. Up 10p to 355p yesterday and looking firm for some time, the shares are within hailing distance of the 380p rights price and there is lots of scope for recovery ahead.

The final piece of the management jigsaw dropped into place yesterday with Richard Lapthorne, a new finance director from Courtauld, to take his place alongside John Cahill, the chairman designate, Dick Evans, the chief executive and George Simpson, the Rover boss who also has the role of deputy chief executive. Despite pressing commitments elsewhere, Sir Graham Day, Rover's temporary chairman, has completed the daunting task of finding men to fill two of the most challenging roles in British industry exactly as promised in time for Thursday's annual meeting. The new team has much to do both in terms of reshaping existing businesses and plotting a course for the disposal of those parts of the group that cannot comfortably remain in the long term. Principally these are Rover and Arlington, the property concern.

Arlington was based on the simplistic idea that in-house property expertise would maximise the potential from BAE's extensive property assets. Bought for top dollar close to the peak of the property boom, the acknowledged expertise within Arlington has been costly and can better be supplied via joint ventures. Like Rolls-Royce, Rover will be hugely cash-hungry in a model development phase and badly needs a bigger, richer partner than BAE. Restructuring and elimination of loss-makers can take BAE's profits well beyond £300 million in a few years. Patient shareholders will be rewarded.

The international bank must prove the analysts wrong by carving out an independent future for itself, says our Banking Correspondent

The international bank must prove the analysts wrong by carving out an independent future for itself, says our Banking Correspondent

If you visit Aldermanbury Square in the City over the coming weeks and stand quietly for a few moments, you might hear a faint thudding noise. It is the sound of the directors of Standard Chartered, the international banking group, banging their heads together debating the future of their bank. Standard lies at a crossroads. Tough management in the past three years has hauled it from the brink of disaster. City analysts agree that Standard, unlike the British banks, is past the worst, and profits are recovering. The same analysts, however, cannot see how the bank can develop its operations. Standard must prove them wrong and carve out an independent future.

Until recently, Standard was a quaint relic of Britain's colonial history. The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China and the Standard Bank of Africa were founded in the early 19th century to service the financial needs of a growing empire. The two banks merged in 1969, but continued to rely on an annual intake of British graduates, who were sent round the world as they worked their way up a rigid management hierarchy. Local employees were kept in their place, and mixed marriages were discouraged. By the early eighties, Standard was desperately outdated and outpaced by international rivals. In 1986, it fought off a bid from Lloyds, but then found its survival threatened by a massive Third World debt portfolio. The Bank of England sent Rodney Galpin, one of its directors, to cope with the emergency.

Mr Galpin has spent three-and-a-half years transforming the bank. He appointed a team of hard-nosed managers to replace the Standard's traditional tail-pans. His first priority was to steer Standard Chartered through a series of painful disposals to pay for Third World debt provisions. The bank's plush head office in the City was an early casualty, along with a tower block in Singapore. The manager's house in Thailand was sold for £50 million, while the European operations and a 50 per cent stake in the merchant banking subsidiary were bought by West-Deutsche Landesbank. Before the ink dried on the contracts, however, Standard was facing a more potent threat from the quality of its loan book in Britain, America and Australia. Standard had plunged into the corporate lending market in the developed world in the late eighties, and attracted names such as Polly Peck and Brent Walker.

Malcolm Williamson, who was brought in from Girobank to head the Asia Pacific region in 1989, was



one of the first to understand the threat. His persistent warnings won him promotion to director of worldwide banking and the task of cleaning out the loan portfolio. "There was a potential problem that was not being addressed," he said. His appointment coincided with the start of the recession that prompted the collapse of many of Standard's largest corporate borrowers.

Mr Williamson spent thousands of hours saving Brent Walker from collapse. Last year, he was rewarded with another promotion, to group managing director. Bad debt provisions in Britain, America and Australia last year reached £147 million, including more than £70 million to Brent Walker. The three regions recorded losses of £55.8 million, wiping out more than a quarter of the profits from the main Asia-Pacific region. The bank has responded by slicing back its corporate loan book in the three regions. Assets fell by a tenth in Australia last year, and marked time in Britain, while growing strongly in the successful Asia-Pacific region. Mr Galpin says the problem is now under control.

"We set ourselves credit grading targets two years ago, and our credit risk has been getting better for the last three quarters," Mr Williamson agrees. "The size of the problem

loan book has peaked. We should be more bomb proof than we ever have been, but I cannot be certain that we won't get the odd slap in the face." The fall in bad debt provisions is expected by City analysts to boost profits this year by more than a quarter to £260 million, while earnings will rise even faster, due to accrued tax losses and a fall in unrelieved advance corporation tax.

While Mr Williamson and his team were tackling the bad debts, or, as he puts it, "wading through the swamp", Standard was implementing a far-reaching management reorganisation, code-named Operation Breakout. The aim has been to introduce an entrepreneurial spirit into the bank's management hierarchy. "In the past, Standard Chartered Hong Kong thought Standard Chartered Singapore was its greatest enemy, not the Hongkong and Shanghai. We have dismantled the federal structure that caused that," Mr Williamson said. "Moving the bank around is a difficult task, like turning a tanker, but we are gaining momentum now and that will impact on our profitability."

The reorganisation is being coupled with a drive to encourage local management. Most of Standard's

offices are now run by local employees, and some female executives from the Asia Pacific region are on course for the boardroom by the end of the decade.

In answer to the criticism that Standard has nowhere to go, Mr Williamson claims there is still a large amount of asset reorganisation to be done. "Redistribution will produce infinitely better margins than the ones we have now and improve profitability. In retailing, you can have fast turnover and low margins or slow turnover and high margins. In that case, banks must be made because they lend medium term on cheap margins." This view means that Standard's lending in the developed world will be minimal in future. Instead, the bank will concentrate on niche, low-risk businesses such as trade finance and foreign exchange to which its global network is ideally suited. The bank will only participate in full service banking in areas where it commands high market share, including Hong Kong, Singapore, Africa and India.

Standard's international network, stretching across more than 50 countries, is undoubtedly its greatest asset. "No one else could create the network we have. You would never get the permission from the authorities to open in all these countries,"

said Mr Galpin. The bank is looking at ways to exploit this global franchise fully. One move is the acquisition of the international business of First Interstate, the Californian bank. Standard is taking over 20 offices in 15 countries in Asia Pacific and Latin America and assets of £600 million at book value. The deal is a psychological boost for Standard. For the first time in almost a decade, the bank is advancing.

Standard hopes to sell trade finance services to Interstate's long list of corporate customers. Standard is also reviewing its co-operation agreement with WestLB, which it hopes will give it more access to European companies. "There are many examples in history of co-operation agreements which have not worked. But that does not mean they are not possible," said Mr Galpin.

The network, however, is becoming lopsided. Businesses in Australia, America, and Britain might take years to recover fully. The African operations are performing well, but economic and currency difficulties prevent the advance making any significant impact on profits. Similarly, India and the Middle East are little more than promising side-shows. This leaves the Asia Pacific region, which provides more than 90 per cent of the profits from less than half the bank's assets. Mr Williamson admits the position is not ideal. "We are a pear-shaped bank where the pear is growing larger. It is not unreasonable to say that at some point we could redress the situation." A solution would be an acquisition in Britain, which would also solve any ACT problems, or continental Europe.

Mr Williamson and the other directors are holding what he calls "a drains-up review of strategy" to consider all these issues. Mr Galpin, however, will not commit himself to any particular course. "Any bank needs to start with flexibility, so it can react to opportunities as they arise," he said. Behind all these plans, however, lies the threat of a bid. Standard barely escaped from Lloyds six years ago. Standard would be an ideal acquisition for any bank that wanted a ready-made international network. Mr Galpin, however, knows he has no time to fret about the possibility. "It is important that we can show we can run a profitable business and, if the time ever came, we would get a better deal for our shareholders."

Mr Williamson feels that the main threat might have passed. "I thought we were at our most vulnerable last year, when we had turned the corner but it was not reflected in our share price. Most banks were having a rough time though and were not in the market for an acquisition." Standard has a long haul ahead to recover from the mauling it suffered in the eighties. The bank's dividend still languishes 40 per cent below its 1989 level. There are signs that Mr Galpin and his colleagues have revitalised the bank against the odds. Now they must prove it was worth the effort.

NEIL BENNETT
Singapore

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Tarmac shapes up for battle

WITH Julian Ogilvie Thompson, the Minorco chairman, widely tipped to be contemplating a bid, Tarmac is showing every sign of gearing up for its defence. It has re-employed GJW, the government relations firm used to help gain the construction group part of the Channel tunnel contract. GJW will work alongside Tarmac's long-standing PR team, led by Peter Belchamber, of College Hill Associates. It has also taken on its first full-time investor relations man in the shape of Tony Williams, 35, hitherto building industry analyst at Morgan Stanley. Williams, who will also be responsible for corporate planning, admits that he has long rated Tarmac no more than a "hold" and says part of his job will be overcoming poor City perceptions of the company. He accepts, however, that his first task could well be defending the company against a hostile predator. "I can't pretend I'm not going in with my eyes open," he says, adding that if there is to be a bid he would prefer it to be after May 5, the day he officially starts at Tarmac. "I'd rather they waited till I got there, so I have a little time to find my feet."

Worlds unite

THEIR eyes first met across a crowded bar... in El Vino's, Fleet Street... and at the weekend they finally tied the legal knot, uniting the worlds of financial journalism and financial public relations in matrimonial harmony. The journalist was Margaret



Stone, of the Daily Mail, who, throughout the 1970s worked for *The Times*, and the PR man Mike Lomax, managing director of First Financial. In attendance at Marylebone Register Office was Stone's daughter, Amy Rennison, who is clearly set to follow in her mother's footsteps. Rennison has just been made editor of *Cherwell*, the Oxford University student rag.

Women's network

FRESH from helping Lady Tryon organise debutantes for the Berkeley Dress Show, fund-raiser Stephanie Lynn, 53, is this week launching what promises to be the most glamorous women's networking group yet. As well as Dale Tryon, who designs clothes under the Kanga label, the London Businesswomen's Network will count among its founder members Susan George, the actress, Countess Grocholska, of Chatto PR consultancy, and Anna Hunter, the fine art publisher who publishes the Prince of Wales's lithographs. One

might think that Lynn, who says she "began networking in Langan's brasserie", had little need of a formal club. She, however, disagrees. "It's easy when you get into it, but so many women don't get out and meet people." LBN will differ from other groups in that it will have a permanent base at the Royal Lancaster Hotel overlooking Hyde Park, where members can meet and enjoy facilities similar to those offered by men's clubs. Charging £75 a year, Lynn expects to sign up 200 members within the first month.

Low blow

SBJ Regis Low, the Lloyd's broker that has won the Queen's Award for Export, has, it now transpires, just lost a big American contract and is in the throes of making up to ten of its 120 employees redundant. As a result of an anonymous telephone call to the *Times*, George Boden, managing director of Steel Burill Jones — which paid £30 million for Regis Low in December — admits that the American facility was worth about 10 per cent of the subsidiary's business. He denies, however, that the contract was one of the main reasons for the high price his company paid. "We bought Regis Low knowing that you can win and lose business all the time," says brave-faced Boden. "We do a huge amount of business. The likelihood is that at the end of the year you won't still have all the contracts that you started off with originally." No one can now argue with that.

CAROL LEONARD

Unfair price of proving innocence

From Mr Maurice Leo
Sir, I note with interest Mr Mackie's letter (Business Letters, April 9) referring to Tax Assessments made by HM Inspector of Taxes.

I have also been an unfortunate victim of the present system, whereby an assessment is made grossly in excess of any sum due.

Although I retired and closed my business in 1990, I have recently received an assessment for 1991 based on a sum of £50,000 net profit before tax. This demand has been made in spite of the fact that the revenue was advised of the termination two years ago. The figure of £50,000

bears no relation to average profits when the company was trading before the recession.

Why should it be necessary to become involved in considerable expense in order to prove one's innocence?

Under the present Taxpayers' Charter, the Inland Revenue is expected to collect the right amount of tax in a fair, helpful, efficient, and accountable way, and not squeeze every last penny out of the taxpayer.

Yours sincerely,
MAURICE LEO,
7 Grenfell Road,
Beaconsfield,
Bucks.

Question of tax

From Mrs Frances Savin

Sir, The question of taxation of single and dual-earning married couples is not as simple as Janet Vaughan-Jones (Business Letters, April 14) suggests.

A single-earning married couple with children is taxed the same as a single person; Child Benefit (which has fallen in real terms) is the only difference. The majority of women who remain in the home do so to bring up their children or to care for sick or elderly relatives and not merely to contribute to the lifestyle of the breadwinner.

The Conservative manifesto states: "We believe that mothers should be treated equally by government whether they work outside the home or not." Let us hope that these sentiments may lead to some financial recognition.

An adjustment should be made to the present system. It can be done by the German method of dividing the family's income in two, so as to

use two tax allowances, or by allowing the transfer of the unused tax allowance of the wife to her husband as set out in the Green Paper of 1986.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCES SAVIN
(Treasurer),
Full-Time Mothers,
3 Wakelin Chase,
Ingateside, Essex.

Striking a chord

From Mr Stuart Smith

Sir, Philip Robinson invests Charlotte Beers (April 22) with many credible qualities, most of which will strike a ready chord with her new boss at WPP, Martin Sorrell. However, even Ms Beers and Mr Sorrell may blanch at one of the objectives your correspondent sets her.

If Ms Beers can engineer the happy co-existence of Procter & Gamble and Unilever in one advertising agency, then she must surely be able to walk on water too. And pigs will take to the air.

Yours faithfully,
STUART SMITH,
123 Bishop's Mansions,
Bishop's Park Road, SW6.

Privatising the coal industry in a shrinking market

From Mr R. T. Arguile

Sir, I agree with Ross Tiesman that the ultimate privatisation of the coal industry is likely to be the trickiest as the market for coal shrinks. On November 15, 1988, in a letter of mine you headed "The future of Coal's Jewel" which dealt then with possible privatisation, I drew attention to the difficulties the parliamentary draughtsmen will have in dealing with the very successful opencast side which is already 90 per cent privatised. The Opencast Executive's contract ensures competitive tendering by its contractors and that all profitable workable opencast coal is exploited.

Ross Tiesman's article had graphs showing that whilst deep mine coal had fallen in production costs per tonne from £60 to £40 in the last five years, opencast coal had likewise had a fall in costs per tonne from £36 to £30. That is, it is still £19 per tonne cheaper than deep mined.

Paid accordingly

From Mr R. S. Fraser

Sir, As Dr Gillibrand says (April 24), the widespread use of three-year contracts can allow compensation to be paid which may or may not be reasonable in the circumstances, and shareholders rarely know the details until it is too late to change anything.

There is one very simple way of ensuring that "golden handshakes" are considered reasonable by the owners of the business. It needs a change in the Companies Act to say that no compensation should be paid to a former director greater than his net pay would have been if employment had continued, until the next agm. when any proposal to pay any more would be voted on. Yours faithfully, R. S. FRASER, Wilmshurst, Cheshire.

overseas coal has a lower sulphur content than that of British mines. Opencast coal is equally low in sulphur, chlorine and ash and has a higher calorific value. Since I wrote in 1988, the OE's performance up to last year has seen profits now totalling, since 1942, £3,277 million from 534 million tonnes of coal (or averaged over 49 years £6.14 per tonne) and further profits will be added this year. Rothschild's report states that "the opencast operations, which are profitable, can match world market prices, should be retained to underpin the deep-mines which have higher costs".

Yet the Labour Party has never rescinded a NUM motion passed at its annual conference in October 1983 to run down opencast coal mining. Furthermore, for the recent election, it stated in a published statement that "alongside the threats from the dash for gas and relying on coal imports, the Tories want to see deep-mine coal

displaced by opencasting. They have increased tenfold the maximum size of private opencast mines. They have weakened local authorities' planning controls over opencasting. They have declared that they see opencasting as a 'flexible means of increasing coal output'."

No wonder they lost the election. Opencast complements deep-mines and can never supplant them. Before local authorities took over the planning function, authorisation under the Opencast Coal Act 1958 lay with central government and only 2 per cent of site applications failed. Now about 30 per cent do such that the number of sites in production is falling off and thereby the annual profit, (made every year since 1953), is reduced and the industry suffers. Its overall performance over the years has kept many a marginal pit open.

Yours sincerely,
R. T. ARGUILE,
12 Edward Road,
Market Harborough, Leics.

is regarded frequently as a less than essential cost or overhead, instead of a valuable investment.

It is slowly being accepted that effective training is essential for the creation and maintenance of a competitive and prosperous economy. The Accounting Standards Board's proposal that training expenditure should be disclosed by companies as revenue investment could make a useful contribution to increasing that acceptance and should be supported.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BARTLETT,
The Association of British Chambers of Commerce,
8 Tufton Street, SW1.

Training thought

From Mr Alan Bartlett

Sir, There is another aspect to Robert Bruce's strictures over inadequate disclosure of financial information by companies (April 28).

With the conduct of British business dominated by accountants, bankers and financial analysts, who is not accorded due importance by accounting requirements is liable to be marginalised. Thus expenditure on training

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[illegible]

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES									
Abbey Nat 4,400	Coma Vita 1,300	Lloyds Bk 4,100	Ryl Bk Stock 2,400	New York (midday)	Remenche	Open	High	Low	Cash Volume
Adi-Lyons 1,400	Com Unins 1,300	M&C 1,400	Midland 1,400	Down Jones 3,411	General 5796.16 (+5.54)	Feb 92	2692.0	2697.0	2692.0 752.6
Anglian W 938	Countryside 1,700	MEPC 533	Scott Power 1,100	S&P Composite 3,419.10 (+5.36)	Parics Card 536.18 (-1.44)	Mar 92	2221.0	2221.0	2221.0 278.0
Anglo Gp 522	ECG Gp 4,900	Marine Sp 2,500	Scott Power 1,100	Nikei 2,400	Zarich: S&K Gen 1,400	Apr 92	90.45	90.45	90.45 99.79
Anglo Ind 1,400	Minerals Gp 1,400	Wigan Bk 1,400	Scott Power 1,100	Tokai A/g 17450.52 (-91.93)	London 1,400	May 92	90.35	90.35	90.35 99.79
Asi Food 3,700	Euromat U 3,700	NFC 1,400	Sym Trans 2,400	Hong Kong 5371.77 (+41.60)	FT A All-Sham 1,282.70 (+6.95)	Jun 92	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
BAA 1,400	Flora 3,700	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400	Hang Seng 5371.77 (+41.60)	FT All Share 1,447.00 (+6.95)	Jul 92	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&A 1,400	Flora 3,700	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400	FTSE Euro 100 1169.59 (+2.57)	FT Gold Mines 107.4 (-1.8)	Aug 92	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400	Amsterdam 1,400	FT Flood interest 102.33 (+0.29)	Sep 92	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400	CBS Tendency 127.9 (+0.7)	FT Govt Sec 98.53 (+0.22)	Oct 92	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400	Sydney ADO 1602.9 (-6.7)	Bargains 124.15	Nov 92	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400	Frankfurt DAX 1742.22 (-3.48)	SEAQ Volume 518.4m	Dec 92	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400		USM (Datastream) 134.30 (-0.16)	Jan 93	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Feb 93	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Mar 93	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Apr 93	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			May 93	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Jun 93	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Jul 93	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Aug 93	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Sep 93	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Oct 93	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Nov 93	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Dec 93	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Jan 94	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Feb 94	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Mar 94	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Apr 94	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			May 94	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Jun 94	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Jul 94	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Aug 94	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Sep 94	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Oct 94	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Nov 94	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Dec 94	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Jan 95	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Feb 95	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Mar 95	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Apr 95	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			May 95	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Jun 95	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Jul 95	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Aug 95	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Sep 95	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Oct 95	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Nov 95	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Dec 95	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Jan 96	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Feb 96	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Mar 96	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Apr 96	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			May 96	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Jun 96	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Jul 96	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Aug 96	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Sep 96	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Oct 96	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Nov 96	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Dec 96	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Jan 97	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Feb 97	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Mar 97	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Apr 97	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			May 97	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
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B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Dec 00	95.87	95.87	95.84 95.85
B&C 3,400	GUS 1,400	NHW Bk 2,500	Shell Trans 2,400			Jan 01	95.87	95.87	95.84

071-481 4481

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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071-782 7828

LEASING PARTNER

QUALITY OF LIFE QUALITY OF WORK

Through perceptive and strategic exploitation of unique opportunities, our Client, a leading South East firm, has identified the need to strengthen its presence in the area of specialist leasing and asset finance.

With modern offices in a central location but only a few miles from beautiful countryside, it offers a unique challenge for a senior lawyer who feels constrained by City practice.

The successful candidate will ideally be a partner or a senior assistant in private practice or hold a senior position in industry, and will need to display extensive experience in specialist finance and operating leasing, effective communication skills and a dynamic and committed approach to practice development nationally and internationally. He or she will have an established personal client base and/or close contacts which should complement the firm's impressive portfolio.

By offering an enhanced quality of life with a high calibre of work, the firm has a proven track record in the integration of top flight lawyers.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Debra Fox on 071-377 0510 (071-243 1225 evenings/weekends) or write to her at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY.

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BANKING LAWYER

AN OPPORTUNITY WITH A DIFFERENCE

If you are a banking lawyer with up to 4 years' relevant post qualification experience and have considered the prospect of working outside London but have never explored the possibility, a unique opportunity has arisen.

The strategic expansion of our 24 partner Client firm has resulted in the need for a confident, commercially-minded and adaptable individual to join its highly successful banking and asset finance team.

The firm is situated in the South East of England and through its pro-active approach to practice development, it has established an extensive client base comprising national banks, building societies, entrepreneurs and specialist leasing and finance companies.

The successful candidate will be expected to advise on a wide range of banking matters and will play an important role in developing the practice to meet the increasing demands of its growing client base.

The benefits of working in this environment will be immediately evident. The commitment of the firm to maintaining its friendly approach is complemented by its drive and enthusiasm for attracting work of the highest quality.

The opportunity of balancing career and lifestyle is, at last, achievable.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Debra Fox on 071-377 0510 (071-243 1225 evenings/weekends) or write to her at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY.

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PRIVATE PRACTICE - COMMERCIAL INDUSTRY

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY To £36,000
Established, well-respected City practice seeks bright young lawyer, ideally qualified for 1/2 years, to work within their thriving specialist insurance group. This role offers quality professional indemnity work within a friendly albeit commercial environment. Excellent long term prospects.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION To £44,000
Prestigious medium sized City practice. The litigation department handles a broad range of general commercial disputes often with an international element. A solicitor is sought ideally with 2-4 years' relevant experience to join this expanding team. Strong academic background essential.

BANKING To £48,000
Highly respected and progressive medium-sized City practice seeks an assistant 1-3 years qualified for its burgeoning banking department. The workload will include a broad range of major transactions on behalf of substantial international and UK clients. Excellent prospects.

RUSSIAN SPEAKER £ City
Major City practice requires a lawyer, recently to 2 years qualified who has an understanding of the Russian language and is interested in the country's commercial development. Company/commercial experience is preferable, although not essential. Future overseas travel expected.

If you are interested in any of the above positions or would like to discuss your career options please contact Nick Root (Private Practice) or Paul Mevis (Industry/Commerce) on 071-936 2565 (081-675 6384 or 081-946 5012 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Taylor Root, Ludgate House, 107 Fleet Street, London EC4A 3AB.

PROPERTY - N.W. To £26,000 + Bens.
This is a rare opportunity for a property lawyer to broaden out into other commercial areas. This highly regarded department handles quality commercial property work including acquisitions, disposals and L&T. The workload will also include commercial contracts. 1-2 years' PQE.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION To £40,000
This international organisation has a requirement for a litigation solicitor to join its small in-house team. The workload includes shipping and commodities litigation, general contractual disputes, sale of goods and a small amount of banking. Lawyers with at least 2 years' PQE.

IP/COMMERCIAL To £45,000 + Benefits
This US firm organisation has its European operations based in West London. It requires an experienced lawyer to handle a diverse workload which will include licensing, royalty and other commercial agreements, IP rights, BC matters and the management of litigation.

BANKING/FINANCE £ City Rates +
A number of the world's most prestigious banking institutions have positions for City lawyers. Areas of work include M&A, capital markets, commercial banking and compliance. Our instructions are for City lawyers with up to 4 or 5 years' PQE. Packages and prospects excellent.

TAYLOR • ROOT

HARBOTTLE & LEWIS

A unique opportunity to join the acknowledged leaders in the entertainment field. The firm has a strong and unusually broad client base in music, film, television and theatre as well as a wide range of commercial companies. Many of their clients are in new and expanding areas of business and consequently they are looking to recruit 2 newly/ recently qualified solicitors (or September 1992 qualifiers).

Candidates must have a strong academic background, good negotiating skills and an ability to think on their feet.

Company and Commercial

The firm has a policy of giving solicitors a broad range of work and candidates can expect experience in a variety of commercial matters. The clients will be a mixture of entertainment companies in businesses such as television, computer games, publishing and music and others in fields such as aviation and engineering.

This would be an excellent move for a City trained solicitor seeking a more varied role.

Litigation

Contractual and copyright disputes and defamation work are the main elements of this opening, although the successful candidate will be expected to conduct a wide variety of commercial litigation. Creativity and flair coupled with a conscientious eye for detail are essential.

City experience is not vital but a broad all-round training and common sense are required.

Candidates should write, enclosing a CV, to Deborah Sherry, Douglas Lambias Associates Limited, 410 Strand, London WC2R 0NS or telephone 071 836 9501.

EDINBURGH
051-225 7744LONDON
071-836 9501
MANCHESTER
061-236 1333

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

LECTURESHIP IN LAW

Applications are invited for a lectureship in Law available from 1 October 1992. An interest in Property Law or Common Law would be an advantage although applications are welcomed from those with interests in other areas of Law.

Professor Hazel Genn, Head of the Department of Law will be happy to discuss the post informally with interested applicants on 071 975 5146.

The salary will be in the range £14,902 - £25,781 pa inclusive depending on age and experience.



For an application form and further details please telephone 071 975 5171 (24 hour answerphone) quoting reference 9244. Completed applications should be returned by 18 May 1992 to the Recruitment Coordinator, Personnel Office, Queen Mary & Westfield College, Mile End Road, London, E1 4NS.

QMW: WORKING TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

COMMERCIAL/ CONSTRUCTION LAW WEST MIDLANDS

Commercial Legal Practice in Edgbaston with emphasis on construction law seeks lawyer with up to two years' post qualification commercial dispute experience and with an interest in acquiring or furthering a specialist knowledge of construction law.

The successful applicant, who must be of partnership calibre, will join a strong and well motivated team of commercial/construction lawyers and will be engaged on good quality work.

The terms offered will be highly attractive and will include a company car. Future prospects are exceptionally good.

Please write to:

Miss Davies - Administration Secretary,
Neil F. Jones & Co., Solicitors,
Number 3 Broadway, Broad Street, Edgbaston, Birmingham,
B15 1BQ

(Marked 'Private & Confidential')

Chambers

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS: PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT

LONDON:
Tel: (071) 606 9371
74 Long Lane,
London EC1A 9ET
(Fax: 071-600 1793)MANCHESTER:
Tel: (061) 228 2122
53 Princess St.
Manchester M2 4EQ
(Fax: 061-228 2213)

Time to Expand?

Some unknown will give Kipling's poem, 'If', a cynical twist.

If you can keep your head when all about you, are losing theirs... you obviously don't know what's going on out there.

We sometimes wonder whether such blind conceits are affecting us at Chambers & Partners. Unlike other recruitment agencies, we have resisted making cut-backs during the current recession. This may not be the most prudent course, but at least it means we are in good shape to handle the economic revival when it comes. Already we are working on increasing in confidence since the election, and our Manchester office, in particular, reports a significant increase in vacancies. We have decided it is time to expand, and are pleased to announce the arrival of a new consultant to handle the placement of solicitors in London.

David Jemmy joined us last week, having spent the past three years as a recruitment consultant with Ruster Strick. He qualified as a solicitor in 1981, after serving articles with Payne Hicks Beach. He then worked for Woodham Smith for two years before moving to From Chalmers in 1983 to handle commercial and intellectual property litigation. He became a recruitment consultant in 1989. His success in recruitment, naturally, did not escape our notice, and we are delighted his skills and talents will now join with those of our existing team at Long Lane.

Michael Chambers

INDUSTRY & BANKING

Banking: City
Lawyer with at least 5 yrs' banking experience to join international bank as deputy legal adviser.

Finance: South East
Manufacturing company needs lawyer to set up and run debt recovery operations. To £25,000.

Manufacturing: London
Lawyer, 2-3 yrs' experience, to join international co to handle commercial/corporate work. To £30,000.

Partnership Positions...
We have been advising partners on career development for nearly 20 years, and understand their requirements. We also appreciate the importance of total confidentiality.

Commercial Lawyer: London
Lawyer, NQ-2 yrs' experience, to handle TP, employment law, and commercial agreements. To £30,000.

Finance: North of England
Opportunity for lawyer with 1 yr's experience to join finance co to handle general commercial work.

Commercial Lawyer: South East
Lawyer with management experience gained in industry to join successful hi-tech company.

Tax Lawyers: Off-shore Tax Haven
Vacancies for private client tax lawyers with banks/finance houses and other organisations.

Oil Lawyer: London
Lawyer with upstream experience to join oil company for temporary assignment.

PRIVATE PRACTICE: LONDON & PROVINCES

Commercial Property Partner: London
Niche firm with excellent reputation - acts for major charities & institutions - seeks senior solicitor (probably a partner) for its commercial property dept.

Banking/Property Finance: London
Thriving banking practice seeks 3-5 yrs qual solicitor for banking work of highest quality with a property finance bias. Excellent prospects. To £60,000.

Commercial Litigation: Holborn
Entrepreneurial litigator, min 5 yrs' experience, to join established London office of leading provincial firm as partner designate. To £85,000.

Intellectual Property: City
2-4 yrs qual solicitor to join one of Central London's leading intellectual property practices for a broad range of non-contentious work. To £62,000.

Insurance Litigation: City
Leading insurance practice seeks litigator, 3-4 yrs experience, to handle personal injury and all aspects of insurance litigation (except professional indemnity).

Commercial Litigation: Central London
Mid-sized litigation firm seeks 1-2 yr qual litigator to handle quality commercial litigation often of a high-profile international nature.

Litigation: Cambridge
Urgently need - senior litigator with PI and professional negligence experience to handle debt & plaintiff work.

Banking/Insolvency: South Coast
Commercial firm seeks solicitor, 3-5 yrs (ideally City trained) for specialist banking/insolvency unit.

Commercial Property: Manchester
Top commercial firm seeks ambitious solicitor, 1-3 yrs experience, for mainstream commercial property work.

Commercial Litigation: Berlin
Expanding commercial practice seeks litigator, ideally 3-5 yrs qual. Partnership prospects.

Personal Injury: Harrogate
Specialist litigation firm with offices nationwide urgently seeks solicitor to specialise in P/I work.

Legal Adviser

0-2PQE - Energy Industry - Midlands

Our client is a major player in the energy industry currently undergoing rapid and progressive change. The Company now seeks to recruit a young Lawyer to join a five-strong team based at the Company's new corporate headquarters in the West Midlands.

The successful candidate will assist the team in relation to the full range of work handled within the Legal Department and will also provide general ad hoc advice encompassing commercial, contentious and property related matters. He/she will be responsible for his/her own caseload and there will be scope to develop within specialist areas.

The ideal candidate will be a Barrister or Solicitor from newly qualified level to no more than 2PQE. He/she will demonstrate excellent all round legal skills as well as an enthusiastic and willing approach.

A competitive package is offered and will include a relocation allowance where appropriate. If you would like to be considered for this exciting and challenging position, contact Simon Lipson, a Solicitor.

127 CHELSEA
LONDON W3 2N 6BJ071-600 1690
FAX: 071-600 1972

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

**PLEASE TELEPHONE
071 481 4481
OR FAX 071 481 9313**

PolyGram Video
i n t e r n a t i o n a l

Bounden Duty on a winning mark

BOUNDEN Duty, from Guy Harwood's Pulbrook stable, looks capable of winning the day's most valuable race, the Rosling King Handicap Chase, at Ascot this evening.

This will be his first venture against seasoned handicappers, such as Al Hashimi and Elfast, and he may well have crept into the race on the lenient side with only 10st 11lb to carry.

For sandwiched between those easy victories at Warwick and Huntingdon was that praiseworthy effort at the Cheltenham festival, where he finished sixth to Young Pokey in the Arkie Challenge Trophy.

Elfast, who won the Midway of Fife Challenge Cup at Cheltenham, had earlier beaten Al Hashimi and Welsh Bard at Sandown. Whereas Al Hashimi is now a pound better off for a length,

MANDARIN

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

Welsh Bard is 5lb worse off for four lengths.

In the meantime, Al Hashimi has been successful at Sandown and Stratford whereas Elfast had the misfortune to be brought down in the John Hughes Memorial Chase at Liverpool, where Welsh Bard was third behind Cyphre and Gale Again.

Bounden Duty's stable companion Ashfold Copse is napped to make a successful transition from novice to handicap company by landing the Punch Bowl Hurdle.

On his last appearance at Ascot, Ashfold Copse was beaten a short head by Bas De Laine, who also runs in the Hesta Novices' Hurdle.

I've seen all but one of Ash-

fold Copse's six races this season and each time he has given me the impression that he has been crying out for today's longer trip.

Very Ordinary, who belied his name when winning the Bellingham Champagne Novices' Handicap Chase at the last Ascot meeting, is taken to follow up in style by winning the Royal Fern Novices' Handicap Chase, even though he will be meeting the third, Kilhallon Castle, on 9lb worse terms.

On the flat at Bath, the Rod Simpson-trained Ollifantfontein can defy his penalty in the Tripleprint Handicap since he has already done it once when romping away with his last race at Sandown on Friday, having scored at Kempton four days earlier.

Results, page 28

ASCOT

MANDARIN
5.30 Miss Bobby Bennett, 6.00 Man On The Line, 6.30 Kilcash, 7.05 Bounden Duty, 7.35 Very Ordinary, 8.10 Ashfold Copse (nap).

THUNDERER
5.30 Miss Bobby Bennett, 6.00 Man On The Line, 6.30 Green's Van Goyen, 7.05 Elfast, 7.35 Pacific Sound, 8.10 Ashfold Copse.

Richard Evans, 7.35 Pacific Sound.

GOING: GOOD (WATERING)

5.30 HESTA NOVICES HURDLE

(E3,052; 2m 4f) (12 runners)

1 4511 BAS DE LAINE 8 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
2 4611 CHAMP METAL 7 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
3 4711 FIGHTING MARINER 5 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
4 4811 KEEPER OUT OF DEBT 20 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
5 4911 MAN ETYAR 12 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
6 5011 ROSS BOBBY BENNETT 13 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
7 5111 STAN FERNANDES 18 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
8 5211 TITUS ANDRONICUS 13 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
9 5311 TRIPLE WHISKY 28 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
10 5411 MISS BOBBY BENNETT 13 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
11 5511 TRIPLE WHISKY, 8-14 Bas De Laine, 7-12 Miss Bobby Bennett, 12-13 Stan Fernandes, 10-11 Ross Bobby, 12-13 Keep Out of Debt.

6.00 MOONSHINE NOVICES CHASE

(E4,300; 2m 4f) (10 runners)

1 5611 AFTALCON 8 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
2 5711 CONSTRUCTION KING 34 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
3 5811 DIAMOND RUN 18 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
4 5911 MAN ON THE LINE 31 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
5 6011 RICH NICHOLAS 48 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
6 6111 SMARTIE EXPRESS 8 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
7 6211 THE BARRON ARCTIC 40 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
8 6311 TRAVEL SOUND 7 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
9 6411 ATLANTIC 3 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
10 6511 ZIMMERMAN 48 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
11 6611 MAN ON THE LINE, 5-11 Rich Nicholas, 7-11 Smartie Express, 8-11 Wad Atlantic, 10-11 Zimmerman, Diamond Run, 14-15 others.

6.30 RESERVOIR HANDICAP HURDLE

(E3,318; 2m) (11 runners)

1 1981 MASTER MAJOR 81 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
2 1991 PETROCK 18 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
3 2001 GREEN'S VAN GOYEN 10 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
4 2011 MISS BOBBY BENNETT 13 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
5 2021 SMARTIE EXPRESS 8 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
6 2031 THE BARRON ARCTIC 40 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
7 2041 TRAVEL SOUND 7 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
8 2051 ATLANTIC 3 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
9 2061 ZIMMERMAN 48 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
10 2071 MAN ON THE LINE, 5-11 Rich Nicholas, 7-11 Smartie Express, 8-11 Wad Atlantic, 10-11 Zimmerman, Diamond Run, 14-15 others.

SEDGEFIELD

MANDARIN
5.45 Merchant Of Venice, 6.15 Guest Player, 6.45 Singleshot, 7.15 Wait You There, 7.45 Mister Gaby, 8.15 Imperial Bld.

THUNDERER
5.45 Merchant Of Venice, 6.15 Tres Amigos, 6.45 Elegant Stranger, 7.15 Laurie-O, 7.45 Watering, 8.15 Banana Cufflinks.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES)

5.45 SOUTH WEST DURHAM HOSPICE

APPEAL NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (E1,841; 2m 4f) (14 runners)

1 THOMPSON FLYER 278 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
2 13 MERCHANT OF VENICE 10 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
3 14 MERCHANT OF VENICE 10 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
4 15 SHARP CHALLENGER 5 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
5 16 SHARP CHALLENGER 5 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
6 17 MASTER WILLIAM 15 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
7 18 LATOSKY 7 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
8 19 SAKAKI 36 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
9 20 HUNTERMAN 40 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
10 21 CHARLIE 8 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
11 22 COUNTESS CROSETT 14 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
12 23 COUNTESS CROSETT 14 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
13 24 COUNTESS CROSETT 14 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
14 25 COUNTESS CROSETT 14 (D,F,G,H) G Shaward 8-10
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Cup rivals are gybing at New Zealand's tactics

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OVERSEAS FOOTBALL RESULTS

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LIFE & TIMES

TUESDAY APRIL 28 1992

MEDIA
20 questions
for the
governors
of the BBC



lining

Ostler
comes
to the
fore



Changing scene: Anthony Whitworth-Jones (left) and Sir George Christie, standing in what will be the backstage area at the new Glyndebourne, due to open in 1994; the gardens — a place for magnificent picnics — will be preserved

One of the unchanging rites of summer begins again this Saturday. Big, expensive motors will converge in a field on the Sussex Downs. Captains of industry will descend in helicopters. Cabinet ministers will be chauffeured in. Sometimes, pleading a three-line whip, they will be discreetly chauffeured out again after the dinner interval, thus missing half the point of why they are there. Magnificent picnics will be scooped on slightly damp grass. Women will shiver in summery silk. Men will bray loudly as they spot clubbable chums quaffing the bubbly on the other side of an exotic shrubbery. Out beyond the he-ha, sheep will blink and slowly shake their heads. Oh, and there will be an opera performance.

John and Audrey Christie founded their summer opera festival at Glyndebourne in 1934. Under the current, benign dictatorship of their son and heir, Sir George, it has stayed, up to now, much as it was. But did I write "unchanging"? That was dramatic licence. As those big motors sweep through the arch this Saturday, their occupants will gasp in astonishment. Where has the Midway Tea Room gone? What dastardly thing devastated the Walled Garden? Look at those gigantic cranes, and that massive hole in the ground. Good grief, the whole place could be a building site in Docklands!

"The audience has been warned," says Sir George Christie. "But nobody ever reads anything in a programme-book. I am bracing myself for a postbag of complaints — that there's a lot of dust, a lot of mud, and we've mucked up this or that. It was inevitable that the first reaction of many old supporters was 'You are destroying the Glyndebourne we know and love'. In a way I'm pleased they feel that degree of allegiance."

The theatre itself is still there. So,

Gamble on Glyndebourne

The theatre synonymous with summer is to be demolished. Will the new one still cast its spell? Richard Morrison reports

Of course, is the Christie house, the fabled organ room, and most of those great gardens. But on July 25, the day after this season ends, even the theatre will disappear in a cloud of chalk. A new, bigger one, designed by Michael Hopkins, will rise in its place — but turned through 180 degrees, so that the audience foyers open out to the gardens, and the backstage will be in much closer proximity to all the workshops that service it.

The idea seems so obvious that one wonders why John Christie never built it that way in 1934. "He simply used the lie of the land," says his son. "The slope of the auditorium matches the slope of the ground; it's as primitive as that. If you lift the floorboards in the present theatre, you will see the chalk of the Downs; there are no foundations at all. How the whole place stands up I don't know."

The festival will skip a year, but Sir George is determined that it will open for business in May 1994. One suspects he has worked out the building schedule on an hour-by-hour basis. He is not a man to leave much to chance.

Perhaps that is why Glyndebourne, unlike most opera houses, rarely miscalculates badly. Some of its audience may regard the whole place as, literally, a bit of a picnic. But that superficial "playground of the rich" image does scant justice to its superbly prepared productions. Connoisseurs expect Glyndebourne to excel — and that expectation is also conferred on the new theatre. Sir George, however, admits that the rebuild is the gamble of his life.

After all, he has no public subsidy, no Ministry of Fun avail-

able to bail him out if things go wrong. He is fiercely and proudly independent. "That way, we are never beholden to political change — when, at the stroke of a pen, you can suddenly find your subsidy cut or pegged. That is really what has happened at Covent Garden."

He admits that he did, just once, allow his resolve to weaken. It was a youthful misdeed, back in the 1960s, soon after his father had died. "I asked Arnold Goodman, then Arts Council chairman, and George Harewood, who was chairman of its music panel, for subsidy. Understandably, they said: 'Then we would be subsidising the rich to come to Glyndebourne.' I replied that I would make the tickets cheaper so that the less wealthy could come. They said: 'No, that won't work either: if the tickets are cheaper we will have to give you more subsidy.' It was a vicious circle. At that point I realised the only way forward was alone."

So Sir George relies entirely on his patrons and his corporate friends. Luckily, he has plenty of them. Consider this astonishing sequence of events. The new theatre is costing £33 million. Sir George launched an appeal in January 1990. "The country's economy had been looking buoyant; that prompted me to grasp the nettle by the throat, as my sister used to say."

Suddenly, recession loomed. All over Britain, arts organisations found the purses of hitherto generous sponsors clamping shut. Yet, just two years later, Sir George has

raised 80 per cent of his target, nearly all from business donors. Now he can probably coast his way to the remaining £6 million. He has estimated, for instance, that the gala concert on July 24 — for which patrons will pay £1,000 or £750 a ticket — will raise about 4 per cent of the total building cost. Not bad for an evening's work.

How did he do it, when such powerful organisations as the Royal Opera House and the South Bank have had to postpone their rebuilding plans year after year? It helps, of course, if a goodly number of your patrons are striking rich. But Sir George was also very canny. "We introduced a degree of commercialism into the fundraising. We offered membership for a limited period to businesses which supported the appeal. That gives them access to tickets."

And access to Glyndebourne tickets is, of course, one of the most desirable perks known to corporate man. But does this mean that Glyndebourne will become the preserve of tired and fiddly business execs? Sir George bristles at the suggestion. "We are confining corporate seats in the new theatre to 35 per cent of capacity. Moreover, ten per cent of tickets for each performance will be reserved for the general public." At the moment, tickets for popular evenings never reach non-members. "And finally, in the new theatre there will be standing room for 46 people."

Anyway, Sir George sees nothing wrong with his corporate supporters. "They are not necessarily the intelligent end of the Glyndebourne audience. But captains of industry are not fools — and some of them go to opera a lot."

The new theatre will increase Glyndebourne's capacity by only 318 seats, to 1,150. For £33 million, that does not seem much of a gain. But those 318 extras will pay, perhaps, £90 each. That will happen nightly for three months. Viewed like that, Sir George's dream does have the smack of firm economic management.

Anyway, he says, revenue is not the only point. The present theatre is looking frayed; it has poor sightlines; it was designed for 300 and now crams in 800, and its acoustics are boxy. Fighting to nab the brightest young singers and to lure top conductors and producers — for much less money than they might command elsewhere — Sir George believes these handicaps can be tolerated no longer.

Moreover, the present theatre was never any great shakes as architecture. Sir George admits as much in his preface to the new season's programme-book. He writes that when English Heritage raised no objections to the theatre's demolition, "I wasn't sure whether to feel nostalgically insulted or optimistically elated."

The new auditorium will be shaped like a horseshoe and be inspired by the small, 18th century opera houses in Italy. Will it have

state-of-the-art technical facilities? "It will be damn good," says Anthony Whitworth-Jones, who is Glyndebourne's general director. "But the important thing is that the intimate atmosphere will not change, because that is the essential thing about Glyndebourne."

Here we reach the nub of the patrons' worries about the new building. It will be much bigger, better equipped. But will it be Glyndebourne? Will the old place still cast its unique spell? Sir George says that it will be "less home-spun, less like a village hall". Actually, anywhere less like a village hall than Glyndebourne — past, present or future — would be hard to imagine. The vital point is that in 1994 the atmosphere will be more like going to a "proper" theatre, less like wandering round a rather eccentric stately home.

Glyndebourne has always been a family concern. John Christie was

chairman for 25 years; Sir George has done it for 33 ("must be the longest-serving chairman in Britain," he says). When he hands it on, he hopes it will be to one of his children. "Having four seemed a wise precaution." The Christie family controls Glyndebourne as firmly as the Wagners control Bayreuth, though Sir George does not exactly encourage the comparison. "For one thing, there's no internecine warfare at Glyndebourne."

But after July 24, nothing will be quite the same again. "The theatre will still be in the grounds of my home," says Sir George, as if to reassure himself. Then he thinks a bit. "Or perhaps, after the rebuild, my home will be in the grounds of the theatre."

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TOMORROW
Kate Muir, Arms and the Woman

Slowly driven up the garden wall

The orchestra of summer is massing and tuning up. The first nightingale gurgled behind the house last night. Eight hours later, when we were walking the dogs down to the river, the first cuckoo pooped from the copse across the fields. This evening, we wondered when we should see the first swallow. With these reassurances that winter is past, my tears for the magnolia are, mercifully, waning.

This magnolia gives me more regular grief than the Labour party. Ipswich Town and the economic cycle all together. From mid-March to late April my nights are a-twitch with anxiety for its tender blooms. A nip of chill in my toes in the early dawn will send me scurrying to the magnolia to see if a frost has scorched those ivory petals. The devastation of 1988, when an icy cutlass butchered it at the height of its abundant glory and left all its goblet blooms hanging in black shreds, like an array of discarded rights, haunts my memory. There is nothing I can do to protect the magnolia, though I have considered wrapping every bud in a sock; but I feel that it will be a personal failing, a neglect of stewardship, if it does not complete its flowering cycle.

My city friends do not compre-

hend this trouble. They seem to think that there is nothing to the cultivation of an acre and a half of garden except lying in the hammock and letting the fruits drop in your lap. They ring up from the office and say: "So sorry to disturb the rural idyll, your lordship: I'm sure you're busy drying herbs but, if you could spare a moment for the real world, there is work to be done back here at the plant." Our worlds barely touch. They have no idea, for instance, what a patch of moss can do to your head.

I never imagined that I would be troubled by the consistency of grass in a lawn but, so help me, here I am. Sometimes I wonder if I should share my problem with *Gardeners' Question Time*. Those are the times when I also wonder if I might have passed straight through midlife to senescence.

Five years ago, I bought this house from an old lady who was, herself, the third successive horticulturalist of genius to possess the place. Following her predecessors, she had planted scores of rare and gorgeous shrubs and trees — ginkgos and garraya elliptica, mimosa and catalpa. When she moved in, 30 years ago, the old lady planted an alba superba on the lawn. All these treasures, now in their maturity, have fallen to my cack-handed

MID LIFE
Neil Lyndon feels a
headache coming on,
thanks to the lawn



stewardship and are a sore trial to me when they are not giving delight. The biggest headache, however, is not the trees and shrubs but the blasted lawn.

In the old lady's last years, after her husband died, she had been hard-pressed to manage the garden, and the lawns, especially, suffered. Weeds and mosses ran unchecked. The ground was never aerated in the autumn nor resown

in spring, so it became a mosaic of scruffy patches.

One solution might have been to landscape and re turf the whole area but can you imagine the cost of an acre of turf? In any case, who wants that kind of perfection? My own view of the classic English lawn was well put by Miriam Rothschild, who said: "Why would anybody want to live on a billiard table?" I could happily live the rest of my life without mowing a lawn or edging a border; but what are you supposed to do if you inherit a formal English garden, lawns compris? Let it go? Or keep it up?

A square inch of moss untreated will become a square yard in a month. A single starweed or dandelion left to grow now will spread to a three-inch radius by July. You may, as I do, loathe weedkillers. You may, as I do, abhor the prospect of spending all your remaining summers on your hands and knees pulling up celandines and sorrels; but what better plan can you suggest? The only alternative to the billiard table seems to be the untended and unintended scrub. My friend the permaculture enthusiast looks around my lawns and herbaceous borders with barely concealed disdain. She does not approve of my timidity, as I think she sees it, in being unwilling to in-

troduce a revolution in the flower beds; but the thought of wild strawberries as ground cover under the ilex trees strikes me as being as shocking a blow against the appearance of old England as it would be to have the guards in battledress for Trooping the Colour.

The most radical solution to these anxieties would be abandonment and flight. Sometimes, late at night when the fear of frost on the magnolia is nipping into my sleep, I dream of the patch of asphalt with a couple of grow-bags and some pots which I had in my bachelor days nearly 20 years ago. If you take on a serious garden, however, you'd better be ready for serious worries: they go with the grown-up territory.

Nature gives us automatic release and relief from these troubles. Long after the cuckoo has piped down and the last swallow has flown, the garden settles itself again into that regenerating sleep which asks not to be disturbed by a gardener's intrusive hand. If the toils of April are upon us, the peace of November cannot be far behind. It's about then that I find myself looking forward to seeing the magnolia in bloom again.

TOMORROW
Single Life: Lynne Truss

PLEASE DON'T LOOK AWAY



WITHOUT YOUR HELP I WON'T HAVE A HOME

Penpa is a little girl who lives in an orphanage in Thailand. The Pattaya Orphanage was founded 15 years ago by Father Brennan to care for children without a home, without sight, without hearing, or who are severely handicapped in other ways. The orphanage doesn't just give these little ones a home, it also gives them a better chance in life.

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LITERATURE

Pulitzer winner Toni Morrison has again drawn on American history for a new novel. Clive Davis met her

Outside, beyond the air-conditioning, the Manhattan traffic is building up towards its regular Friday afternoon chaos. Inside, in the headquarters of Random House on East 50th Street, Toni Morrison, one of America's most acclaimed contemporary writers, sits at a desk and sips a glass of designer mineral water. She looks comfortable in this setting, which is hardly surprising considering that she spent almost 20 years as an editor with the company.

She makes the ice cubes in her glass as she ponders a question, one that she has been asked before: why is she continually drawn to the subject of America's history? "People ask me why I'm always writing about the past. I don't know. I think it's probably because there's more of it. It seems infinite and inexhaustible to me, and it can bear a lot of re-imagining. Especially black American life, because it has been usurped by some people, and it needs to be re-imagined."

Five years after she published *Beloved*, the bestseller which brought her the Pulitzer Prize, Morrison has delivered her new novel, *Jazz*. Once again she is hurrying back in time to the Harlem of the Twenties. But while the title may evoke images of the Cotton Club, *Jazz* and mobsters, Morrison's vision is instead rooted in mundane domestic life, and in particular the relationship between a middle-aged door-to-door cosmetics salesman, Joe Trace, his wife Violet and his teenage mistress, Dorcas.

As the novel opens we learn, from an unidentified narrator, that Dorcas has died at Joe's hands. That is one of the few details the reader can take for granted in this, the most densely written work Morrison has yet produced. Weaving together the thoughts and recollections of her characters, she hints at the forces which have driven them towards a violent fate. Barely 230 pages long, it is a novel which can easily be read in one sitting. Unravelling the multiple strands takes longer.

As for the book's title, the action and dialogue are studded with topical references to popular music. Morrison explains that her principal aim was to re-create something of the immediacy of a jazz improvisation. And by that she appears to mean not the silly, melodic grace of a Bix Beiderbecke but the jagged solos of an avant-gardist such as Ornette Coleman.

"The book starts out with an assertion of knowledge on the part of the narrator," says Morrison, "and little by little, in the act of telling this story, it begins to feel uneasy, it makes mistakes and misreads something as the voices of the characters talk back. Which is what improvisation is: you practice what you practice in your room, and then you're on stage and you make it up and then you build this wonderful structure, and then you hit a wrong note. The beauty is, that error in judgment or perception can take you to a place that you would never have gone to otherwise."

By the standards of today's New York brat pack, Morrison's career as a novelist took off slowly. Before Clive Davis worked for CBS, she taught English at Harvard and University before joining Random House as an editor in the mid-Sixties. Her first novel, *The Bluest Eye*, was not published until 1970. *Sula* followed in 1974; three years later came *Song of Solomon*, arguably her finest so far, for which she won the National Book Critics Circle Award.

Like its predecessors, the book drew on the storytelling traditions of Morrison's own family, with overtones of that now fashionable genre, "magical realism". After mixed reviews for *The Bluest Eye* in 1970, Morrison enjoyed her biggest commercial success to date with *Beloved*, a tale inspired by the true story of an escaped slave who killed her baby daughter in order to "save" her from slavery.

Morrison finally quit Random House in 1983. When not writing at her boathouse in upstate New York, she teaches at Princeton. Not surprisingly, given her academic training, much of her conversation turns on questions of literary form and the problems of finding an authentic voice. She believes that the black novelists of past generations — among them Richard Wright and the under-rated Harlem Renaissance figure Langston Hughes — were inhibited by their reliance on the patronage of a white audience. Half a century on, Morrison feels free to address herself to, as she puts it, "a presumed black reader. Like other black writers, she is more interested in the need to explain her terms of reference to outsiders."

Her theories on literature and race are expounded in *Playing in the Dark*, three essays based on lectures delivered at Harvard in 1990 (also published this week by Harvard University Press, \$19.95). Morrison's message is the high of black language — what she describes as "American Africanism" — in mainstream American literature, from Mark Twain to Hemingway. "In spite of her criticism of the white establishment," she says, "she is more interested in literary techniques than detecting racism in his final, overwrought essays. She is more interested in the need to explain her terms of reference to outsiders."



Toni Morrison: "A wrong note... can take you to a place that you would never have gone to otherwise."

Advancement of Colored People — she should devote more time to the business of living. She did, however, make similar comments when *Beloved* was published. She is clearly the kind of writer who seizes the hours of freedom away from her desk. When she is not teaching or writing, she says, she likes to get up early and read or do some gardening. And, after so many years of office politics and parties, she relishes the solitude of her boathouse.

When she talks about the struggle to understand and delineate her character, she gives the impression, in fact, that she can quite happily go for days without venturing near her desk. Is that true? She laughs. "Days? Months! I don't write until I can't not do it. So during the months and months that I'm not writing, I can think about it. Working regularly is a very adult and worthwhile way of doing it. I think the only reason I don't do it is that I've never been able to — I've had a job and I had to raise two children. You learn how to be efficient with time. I can sleep, as it were, for long periods and I know I am doing nothing wasteful. Every sunset, every conversation that I have may re-surface and I'm serene in the knowledge that it's there."

© Jazz is published by Chatto & Windus at £14.99

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CLASSICAL MUSIC COMPETITION

Wales produces worthy winner

to receive the £10,000 first prize on offer in the 80th anniversary year of the birth of the great contralto, Kathleen Ferrier.

The asking of infinite pains to bring something in depth out of the music; the ability to make the hairs on the back of one's neck stand up on end; these were the qualities sought by the jury from the very first rounds of the competition, according to its chairman, Dame Janet Baker.

At St John's, Smith Square, last Friday we had reached the stage of nine singers down, one to go, and no one had really done much to show they had achieved those qualities. Then up stood Hughes Jones and, with a confidence born of deep musical assurance rather than accomplished self-presentation, engaged the audience at quite a different level.

His serious, if anything understated, Rachmaninov was followed by the fresher, living air of a song in his native Welsh. And then came Rodrigo's "Per me giunto" from Verdi's *Don Carlo*. This dramatic scene was lived through in its every breath and

inflection, and in a voice resilient enough to take the technical strain at every level. Dame Janet was eager to point out that his victory had been the subject of much argument, and was the result of a majority, not a unanimous decision. The clear rival was the baritone Nathan Berg, already a favourite from his success in the recent Peter

Pears Award. His second prize was inevitable, for the polish and maturity of his performance is unquestionable, even if it still lacks the edge of character and insight to take him to the top.

Anna Coote, a true and distinctive contralto, fittingly took third prize. Her "Es ist vollbracht" from Bach's *St John Passion* showed a sensitivity to the music's inner drama, and a deep personal serenity very much in the spirit of the singer celebrated in this consistently fruitful award.

HILARY FINCH

TELEVISION REVIEW

Hot story, but it was frozen stiff

On a walking holiday in the Tyrol, a German couple stumbled over the ice man. Europe in which the ice man lived. One surprise was his age, 5,300 years instead of the 4,000 first supposed. Carbon dating at Oxford and Zurich established the fact, a shock to prehistorians because he carried an axe of a type they did not believe to exist then.

A huge research programme is now underway to tease every possible scrap of information from the body and the artefacts the ice man carried. His jerkin is a special prize, for no leather from this period has ever been found before. The grass from his boots, the wood of his axe handle and his bow and arrows, the copper axe blade, the blood, bones, stomach and even the ice man's DNA will be minutely analysed.

What sticks in the mind, however, is the implausibility of the thing. Not only did the ice man die in a place where snow quickly protected his body from marauding animals, but between two ridges that allowed a glacier to form over the top of him without sweeping him away. He lay there while empires rose and fell, until finally a storm from the Sahara laid a layer of dust on the ice above him that absorbed sunlight and finally thawed him out. Only by a freak series of events was this window into the past opened up: an example of how luck can sometimes be a friend to scholarship. Another film will be needed in a few years, when all the data is gathered in.

NIGEL HAWKES

Intimate images of the ordinary heroes of Paris

Last weekend in Oxford, just outside the main shopping mall, a young man spread a dozen cheap photographic posters on the pavement. Their subject matter was diverse. Motorbikes and jazz musicians featured strongly, so too did couples kissing. Each poster, held against the pavement by strips of tape, cost £1. In one of the kissing pictures, by Trevor Watson, a couple are draped against a London bus; in another, by Jane Hilton, a similar couple stretch from two passing American cars, their lips seem to touch fleetingly.

Both photographs share a contrived, glitzy superficiality, and both owe their genesis to an earlier photograph by the French photographer, Robert Doisneau. In 1950, while on an assignment for *Life* magazine, he snapped a young couple kissing as they passed by his café table outside the Hotel de Ville in Paris.

To the side of the mélange on the Oxford pavement is a poster of this very photograph: a grubby, all-too-dark version of what is, in its original form, a dazzling, vivacious monument to the eternal energy of youth. Just yards away, within the Museum of Modern Art, hangs a print of the original in an exhibition celebrating Doisneau's 80th birthday.

Doisneau's *Kiss* has become a kind of icon. It has been reproduced in almost every commercial form — as post-

cards, birthday cards and posters — and more than 380,000 times at the last count. The image has more *jolie de vivre* and momentary abandon than perhaps anybody could expect to encounter in its time of ardent endeavour. Its very success lies in the way Doisneau captures the ordinary man's love for life with an unashamed sense of humour.

What makes these photographs of such ordinary people go-ing about such everyday lives so appealing? The answer is that there is nothing pretentious or contrived in his work. During his six working decades he has travelled the world, yet always he returns to Paris, where he has forged the streets for the glimpses of humanity that only he can invest with significance.

He has never patronised the down-and-outs, the circus performers, the urchins with scuffed shoes, but has embraced them with a warmth

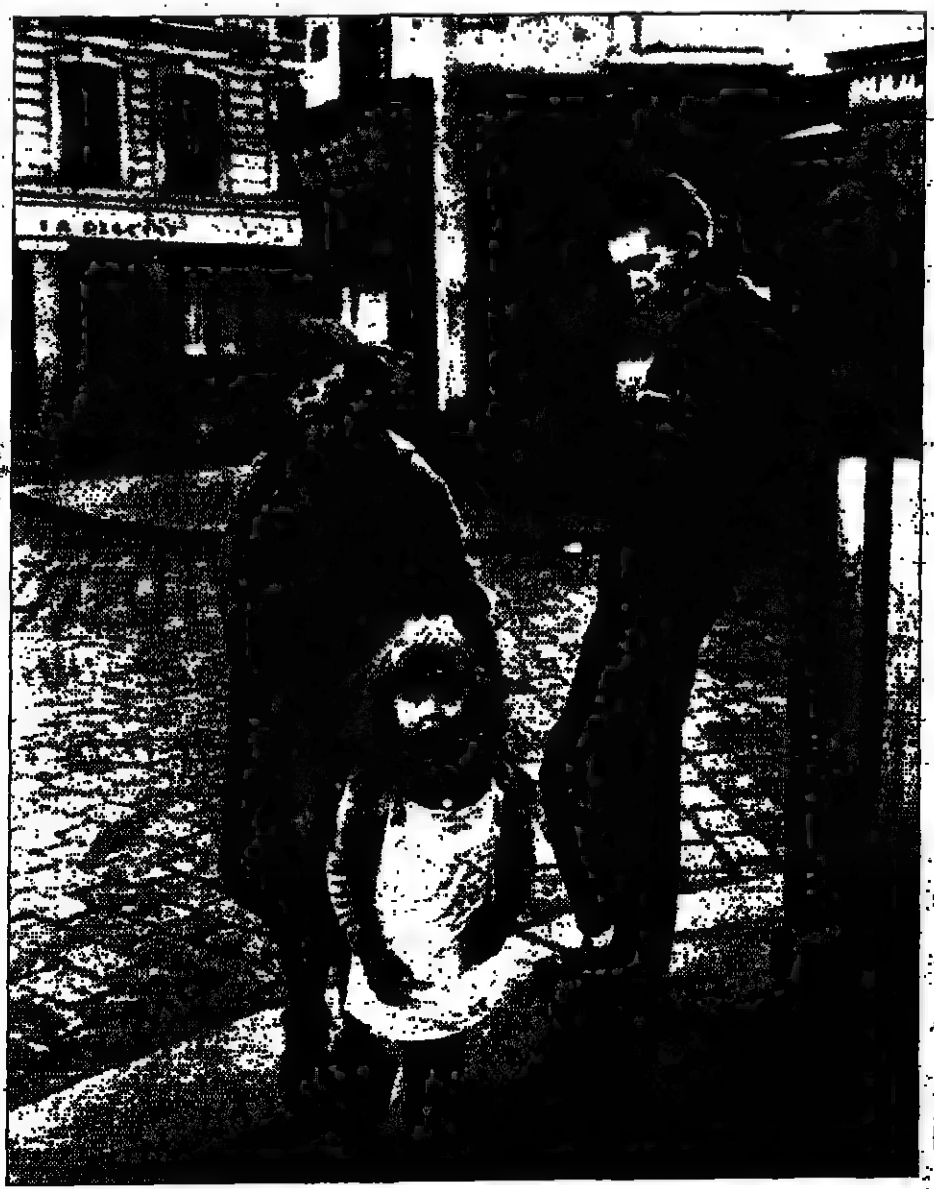
that is infectious and exciting. In his photographs, ordinary man and woman are transformed into hero and heroine. But his photography is also about the moment seized, of life caught on the wing. His intuition transforms the strange conjunction of the unexpected into fine photographic art. Above all, his photography is about the warmth and humour to which humanity can aspire.

Doisneau's world is a glimpse of this idealised place. A parade takes place along a crowded street while we, from our elevated position, see also a father and daughter obliviously tending their garden, hidden behind a wall.

A teenager lounges against a police telephone while two young girls puncture his boredom. This latter picture, taken in 1957, has also been subjected to poster treatment, but in the exhibition it is a print hung alongside a set of tiny, fading, contemporary contact prints.

In these yellowing sheets one can find insights into Doisneau's creativity. The quarry moves into range, the theme develops, the shutter is pressed. And there it is, just so, beyond improvement: the exposition of a universal truth set down with the audacity that only photography can employ.

© Robert Doisneau: A Retrospective is at the Museum of Modern Art, Penbroke Street, Oxford (0865 722733) Mon-Sat 10am-6pm; Sun 2-6pm, until July 19.



A moment captured: "A teenager lounges against a police telephone while two young girls puncture his boredom," in one of Robert Doisneau's studies of Paris, in 1957

ARTS BRIEF

Norma of the north

SCOTTISH Opera, still running a deficit of more than £900,000 despite emergency one-off grants this season from the Scottish Office and the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, has unveiled its repertoire for 1992-3: its 30th anniversary season. There are new productions of Handel's *Julius Caesar*, Bellini's *Norma*, *Il trovatore* (to be conducted by Richard Armstrong, the music director designate) and *The Magic Flute*.

Revolutions of old productions include *Costi Jan tuu*, *La Bohème*, *Eugene Onegin* and *The Makropoulos Case*. Among the guest artists will be Jane Eaglen, singing the challenging title role in *Norma*, and the specialist Baroque conductor Nicholas McGegan, who takes charge of *The Magic Flute*.

Shelf life
THE London Library's 150th Anniversary Appeal will receive a boost this summer from three "Evening Readings at Christie's". Dame Judi Dench (May 18), Timothy West and Prunella Scales (June 15) and Alan Bennett (July 6) will take part in fund-raising evenings at the auctioneers in King Street. The £3 million appeal is to extend the London Library's premises as its million-volume collection grows by 8,000 titles a year. Tickets are obtainable from the Library (071-499 7471).

Olympian epic
NATIONAL Music Day, on June 28, will doubtless have many grand sights and sounds. But what will rival "the largest chorus ever assembled in modern times for a performance of Handel's *Messiah*"? That is concert promoter Raymond Gubbay's claim for a performance in the Grand Hall at Olympia in London, at which Sir Yehudi Menuhin will conduct more than 1,500 singers, drawn from all corners of the land. But only 1,500? Our Victorian ancestors once brought together 500 instrumentalists and 4,000 singers for a similar blast of Handel in the Crystal Palace.

Last chance...
VAN GOGH'S English period produced very few artworks; he spent 1873 to 1876 working for a London art dealer and hardly considering himself even as a potential artist. But what he saw of England and the socially conscious English art of the day had a profound effect on his later life and work. This is all fascinatingly chronicled in "Van Gogh in England" at the Barbican Art Gallery (071-638 4141). For good measure, the gallery is also showing the extraordinary colour photographs of the American, William Eggleston. Until next Monday.

DAY APRIL 28 1992

table

directed by Tadashi Imai

DAVID ROBINSON

MAISON MARTIN MARGIELA

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IN&ER'S



Was Libby Purves a wimp to retrieve her son and daughter from a wet, freezing sailing camp?

Packing, frankly, was hell. The act of assembling a dozen bundles of clean, dry clothes raised nagging doubts: can the seven-year-old brain grasp the concept of

I stayed nearby and 'phoned in the morning as the worst weather system for weeks began to rattle the windows. "Too windy for sailing, they've gone up the creek in the launch," said the school. "The

We returned them next morning, revived, and they sailed all day (sunnier, but still half a gale). However, the shivery-but-keen son flaked out in the rescue boat, too tired by bad weather and strange

were wimps. But the boy still loves sailing and wants to take up where he left off when the weather improves. His sister? Um... well, does anybody know of a really good residential badminton course?

DAVINA LLOYD

have the creature named after him, but contemplative when he realised that it might well end up in a freezer in a few months' time. The geese they helped to feed

were, or more sensitive. I cannot tell. Perhaps it is the sentimentality of much of their literature, peopled anthropomorphically as it is with marmalade-eating bears wearing Wellingtons, or farscally rabbits in small blue coats. I find myself out of step with their culinary preferences as I wheel my supermarket trolley in search of mushroom lasagne, lentil ragout or Quorn quiches — the unsympathetic in pursuit of the unappetising.

The author is the editor of Parenting Plus magazine



No space: Yellow Page

Geena works from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in a suburb and still "isn't taking calls from clients, and I'm not even taking them, and forwarding them" to about 500 women. "My phone in her office home room ring constantly. She's like a puging cat for women, and keeping track of anyone who has been to my place, but bouncing charges. It's a big problem."

Counting men's faces
is quicker work — but
because there were fewer. "I
husband never queued. I
ten," says Mrs Goldsmith.
At the British Museum I
early lynched for que-
rumping until I explained
mission. Then the cries
encour changed to deman-
a petition. "At the muse-
e Goldsmiths spent a
d-and-a-half hours check-
ing found 41 appliances.
men, 19 for women. At
museum says the figure
and 22.5 per cent."

the number of visitors? Apparently, not. The 5.5 million annual visitors to the museum confirmed the split to be an

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Please send to: BT Call Waiting Offer, FRFEP(ONT 800 (BS3333).

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.....

is service is in addition to your standard telephone service. Normal rental charges

work, and also have a tone dialling phone with a plug and socket connection

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*And you're cursing yourself
for turning down this free offer.*

This is probably true only for trainee young vegetarians. Older children are more discerning and aware. They want to know whether it was a grown animal or a young one. How did it live and how did it die? We who avoid such hard thoughts are assisted in our hypocrisy by the way we procure our meat, tastefully trimmed and anonymously

This service is in addition to your standard telephone service. Normal rental charges for Call Waiting are £4 per quarter inc VAT for a minimum period of 12 months. To be able to use Call Waiting you must be part of the modern digital BT network, and also have a tone dialling phone with a plug and socket connection. If you do not have a plug and socket connection BT can arrange installation at a cost of £29.36 inc VAT. Other charges may apply to individual customers.

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No space: Yellow Pages display advertisements for escort agencies were by no means pornographic. Some offered genuine dates and nothing more, yet they have been banned

No sex please, we're BT

Escort agencies have been denied advertising freedom, and not by the moral majority but the Yellow Pages. Kate Muir reports

As the Mothers' Union makes a bid for modernity by calling for a debate on the legalisation of brothels, it has failed to notice that one late 20th century alternative to the brothel is doing nicely, paying its taxes, and co-operating with the police.

The oldest profession is resilient because it moves with the times, and the escort agency has replaced the brothel to a large extent. Calling for the legalisation of an institution past its self-by-date misses the point.

The changing method of the prostitute has been reflected in slang over the years. She began as a streetwalker. As she developed confidence she became a hussy or a hooker. With the invention of the telephone, she became a call-girl. With the invention of the car, she met the kerb-crawler. And with the invention of the fax, answering machine, beeper and mobile phone, she became an escort girl.

The escort agencies mostly advertise in the Yellow Pages. The London Central directory alone lists 35 pages of advertisements offering "attractive ladies", "handsome girls" and "complete confidentiality". Some offer genuine dates and nothing more, most do offer more. As Geena, who runs an upmarket escort agency serving London and the Home Counties says: "It's illegal to solicit for sex, but it's not illegal to arrange a companion for the evening. Any extras are paid as 'tips' direct to the girls. I've got nothing to do with that part, so my business is above board."

Geena works from home in a leafy suburb, and sits in a pink tracksuit taking calls from clients, screening them, and farming their numbers out to about 50 women. The three phones in her office behind the living room ring constantly. She has a fax and a paging service to contact the women, and keeps a black list: "I note anyone who has been violent or a bad payer, but bouncing cheques are our big problem."

Escort agencies such as this charge anything from £30 to £70 for the introduction, and most declare their profits for income tax. It is up to the escort to declare any further earnings.

The clients like the discretion of an escort agency — there is no risk of arrest by the police for kerb-crawling, the phone call is private, and the woman is either visited at home, or comes to a hotel or house. One of Geena's agency's clients, a titled man in his mid-seventies, says: "I'd be reluctant to go to a place where there were other people, and driving around Euston would terrify me. I'd much rather the girl came to visit me at home in the village. Since my wife died I discovered I wanted some companionship, and you can spend a jolly nice evening talking to some of these girls, too. Using an escort agency minimises the impact on other people — I don't want to shock them."

For the women, it is infinitely safer. There are no pimps and the risk of violence and arrest in the street is minimised. The money is better — sometimes £70 to £100 on top of the agency fee. One 24-year-old escort who gave up a badly-paid career in the theatre says: "Geena gives me the man's number and I suss him out on the phone. If he sounds fishy, I hang up, and I can arrange to meet him somewhere, and walk past if I don't like the look of him."

In two years of business, not one of Geena's escorts has been attacked. Keeping trouble off the streets helps the police, too, who quietly accept the presence of agencies. And the tax inspectors? They just take the money. As for health checks and Aids, Geena says: "Working girls know their responsibilities. They'll refuse a

job unless a man uses a condom and spermicide. They don't have a death wish."

So here is a situation which suits everyone involved — the escort agency is providing a legal or semi-legal service for which there will always be a demand. Yet the trade is threatened, not by moralists or the law, but by British Telecom. BT, which owns Yellow Pages, has banned display advertising by escort agencies and the lesser "massage parlours". So have the Thomson directories.

The Yellow Pages advertisements

"It is not illegal to arrange a companion for the evening. Any extras are paid as 'tips' direct to the girls"

were by no means pornographic, mostly showing drawings of women in revealing evening dress, without mention of sex. The agencies' phone numbers will still be listed in one-line classifications, but any details of their service will be refused.

BT changed the regulations in the run-up to the election, and no one noticed. A spokesman said: "It has been drawn to our attention that people had been using these adverts to promote sexual services, and we decided not to accept display advertising." There have been no official complaints, but the change came after a "shock expose" in the *Sunday Sport*.

Asked to explain why escort agencies were to be banned, while BT was still accepting money from the 0898 sex chatlines, the spokesman said:

"We do not condone services of a pornographic nature, but we have no control over the information provided by the user."

Annabelle, of Annabelle's Escorts for All Occasions based in Brighton, had booked more than £7,000 of display advertising for next year's directory. The Yellow Pages salesman had helped redesign her advertisement last month, intended for the ten directories covering the south-east coast. Now, there will be no entries.

Yet Annabelle's contracts state that "the agency introduces clients to escorts for the purpose of dining, dancing and theatre only" and "any escort offering immoral services will be dismissed immediately."

She says: "I pay tax, I pay VAT, I am running a legitimate business. I don't want the girls reduced to putting stickers in phone boxes. We're not that sort of organisation, and there is a need."

There are a lot of lonely people, divorced people, and disgraced people out there. How else does a man in a wheelchair, or other disability get out for an evening with a woman?

The septuagenarian who favours Geena's agency thinks the advertising ban is a "complete breach of liberty". A lifelong reader he says: "The adverts show pictures of pretty girls, that's all. If I was chairing a Royal Commission on the subject, I think after a couple of years and much deliberation, I would say this is the most sensible way to deal with the need. Hiding behind sully attitudes isn't going to help." He adds that much to his surprise he discovered he had not lost "youthful urges" in his later years. He says he enjoys discussing Greek philosophy with one of his

escorts, and that the other runs her own design business and speaks fluent German.

Another client of Geena's, a 37-year-old divorcee who works in local government, also agrees that discreet advertising is acceptable. "There's nothing trashy about what the agency does. I'm divorced. I want to meet articulate, educated girls occasionally without hanging out in singles bars or starting a heavy relationship." He is reassured that the women he sees work for themselves, negotiate their own fees, and are not exploited by a pimp. "If anything, I'm being exploited if you look at it from the feminist point of view."

He also admits there is a certain snob value to using an agency, which includes moonlighting mothers and career women on its books, as well as one deputy bank manageress. (A female police officer recently resigned when her evening job was discovered.) "It's miles away from a tart swinging her handbag under a lamp post," he says.

That said, the ban on advertising, added to the present muddled law which allows prostitution but not soliciting, will ensure more women spend more time under lamp posts, and more time in police cells. A 39-year-old graduate, who gave up a job in the civil service for the "flexibility" of escort work, says without the backing of an agency and advertising, she would give up. "As I see it, 50 years ago, gentlemen owned 20 racehorses and had two mistresses. Now they own a one hundredth share in a horse, and occasionally use an escort agency."

This is the premier side of a process ranging from companionship to prostitution, far from pimps and violence, drugs and rape. The trade remains sleazy and dangerous. But what it does show is that a business which will survive every recession can at least be made safe. The Mothers' Union might be advised to include the escort agency in their debate.

Tailor-made for a Speaker

Bernard Weatherill found a perfect retirement job back in Savile Row

Bernard Weatherill resumes his rule this week as head of the Savile Row tailoring establishment that bears his name. The Speaker's lively of breeches and embroidered stockings, made for him on his appointment in 1983 by the Federation of Merchant Tailors is being packed off to Croydon Museum to be displayed in the constituency he has represented since 1964.

The retiring Speaker looks at home among the hunting coats and banana-coloured breeches lined up in the headquarters of Bernard Weatherill Ltd, the business established by his father, where he is still known to some as "young master Jack". Mr "Jack" Weatherill's twin sister, Marjorie, is known as Jill.

Taking a pair of riding breeches off the rail — the company makes the Queen's riding clothes — Mr Weatherill stretches the pale whipcord wool over one knee and describes his five years' apprenticeship as a breeches maker "on the board", as the breeches makers' low work bench is called. "We sat cross-legged at the board and used our knees to mould the cloth as we sewed. We pressed on our knees with a goose, which is a gas-heated iron."

He needs little prompting to produce from his pocket the open-ended tailoring thimble he has always carried with him during his other career in the House of Commons. He does all the sewing in his own household ("I sew on buttons and fix stray linings") but he admits to being out of practice when it comes to making a pair of breeches, let alone tailoring a suit.

His retirement, he says, must be read as in quotation marks. Taking up the role as president of the company is just one of many interests he will be pursuing. His brief is to develop the Bernard Weatherill name with a view to franchising. "This is an emotional thing for me," he says. "The old boy," as he calls his father, started from a poor background as a journeyman tailor.

Despite a gammy leg from infantile paralysis, the "old boy" was strong enough to become both the wrestling and boxing champion of Buckinghamshire in the same evening. Lord Burnham was so impressed by this sporting achievement that he set him up in business in Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire. from



Fresh start: Bernard Weatherill

family business in 1957 when his father suffered a stroke. By the time he was selected as Conservative candidate for North-East Croydon in 1964 he had expanded the business to include 16 retail branches. "The height of my ambition was reached when I entered the House of Commons. Anything I've achieved since then has been a bonus," he says.

Tailoring is a good background for a life in politics, Mr Weatherill believes. The "old boy" taught him that. "Remember you are not fitting the customer's body but his mind." was one of Mr Weatherill senior's maxims. "Never forget that the fussy customer makes the good tailor," was another of his maxims but can be translated to apply to the fussy constituent and his MP.

Rumours that the Speaker was responsible for raising standard of dress in the House are hotly denied. "When I put on a ponitiff on dress," he asks. But he agrees that a back-bencher might more easily have caught his eye if he or she were properly dressed.

He quotes from a report in *The Sphere* on the 1910 election. "Beware the shabby candidate: he is full of shabby ideas."

LIZ SMITH

Hopping mad about loos

A couple's count of male and female public lavatories reveals inequality

Ladies, gents, messmates, messmates, today sees the publication of a survey that claims to reveal a very clear discrimination — Britain's public inconvenience. This study pinpoints the disparity between the provision of men's and women's WCs in public buildings around London. It concludes that until architects redraw their plans for "the geography", until women say no to water-closet abuse, until men recognise that what women actually do in there is not powder or gossip but queue, women will be left hoping in vain for relief.

"Schoolboys of all ages titter over toilets, but for women WCs simply are not a laughing matter," says Rebecca Goldsmith, who conducted the independent survey published by the Centre for Accessible Environments. Together with her husband Selwyn, she checked 38 public buildings, including concert halls, hotels, airports, theatres, department stores, galleries and motorway service stations.

Counting men's facilities was quicker work — but not because there were fewer. "My husband never queued. I did often," says Mrs Goldsmith. "At the British Museum I was nearly lynched for queue-jumping until I explained my mission. Then the cries of rancour changed to demands for a petition." At the museum the Goldsmiths spent two-and-a-half hours checking: they found 41 appliances for men, 19 for women. (The museum says the figures are 46 and 22.) Was this to serve double the number of male visitors? Apparently not. Of the 5.5 million annual visitors, the museum confirms the gender split to be 50:50.

Geoffrey House, the head of public services, did not see why the count should include urinals rather than cubicles.

"Does he assume ladies don't pee in his lavatories?" says Mrs Goldsmith. "How can urinals not count?" But the British Museum was not the only dinosaur lumbering along with this attitude. Of the 38 public buildings inspected, the Goldsmiths found only two had equal numbers for goose and gander. Four buildings, all department stores, had fitted more WCs for women. Yet these apparent

"Women have had enough liberation, we want more loos"

cases of equality look less wonderful once the much greater proportion of female users was taken into account.

The remaining 32 buildings had a larger number of male than female appliances.

Asked to explain, institutions either tended to ignore urinals, mumble about space or deny the figures vigorously. Carol Haynes, from the National Theatre's house-keeping, was deeply offended by the counters' conclusions about the smallest rooms in the house. "They say we have 64 for men, 28 for women; the

THE LONGMAN		
Location	Appliances	M F
Theatres, cinemas and concert halls		
Barbican Centre	54	30
MGM Cinema, Fulham (Sc 1-3)	54	28
National Theatre	64	28
Royal Festival Hall	64	28
Museums and art galleries		
British Museum	41	19
National Gallery	33	24
Royal Academy	9	9
Science Museum, Kensington	40	26
Department stores		
Army & Navy, Victoria Street	7	5
British Home Stores, Oxford Street	7	5
Debenhams, Oxford Street	10	21
Debenhams, Oxford Street	9	16
John Lewis, Oxford Street	9	21
Shopping malls		
Hatfield Galleria	36	24
Whiteleys, Bayswater	11	7
Railway stations		
Euston	42	20
Liverpool Street	49	20
Airport terminals		
Heathrow Terminal 4 Depa (Landside)	30	20
Stansted (Landside)	33	22

Source: Centre for Accessible Environments

figures should be 66 for men, 57 for women." Mrs Goldsmith was apoplectic. "Anyone can go and physically count as we did. The truth is that they don't want to know. Why do they think there are queues?" Even when a recount included all the facilities in the restaurant areas, the discrepancy was still over 30 in favour of men.

In fact, Mrs Goldsmith's real point is that even if buildings do provide equal numbers, this is not true equality, "because women take twice as long to use the facility". Eva Jiricina, an architect, adds: "Even if you've got a very democratic developer or client, no regulations take any account of this imbalance."

So why do women put up with this far-from-ideal world? "Most see it as a fact of life," says Mrs Goldsmith. "Feminists have done nothing because they're too busy saying God's a woman to bother about basics. I say women have had enough liberation, what we want is more loos."

One option is unisex facilities. Over the weekend the queues for the 16,000 racers at Sandown Park's biggest annual event were less horrendous than in previous years: the additional Portaloos were all unisex. "Young people are quite happy with them," says Jamie Hooper, the managing director of the course supplier, Southern Mobile.

Mrs Goldsmith's answer is strict building regulations. But Ms Jiricina says change will be a long time coming. "The government is going to sit tight because legislation would incur huge costs. Women aren't going to be able to uncross their legs till loos more of us are MPs."

NICOLA MURPHY

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Star of the West Coast: Los Angeles, now a great city

Cultural capital

NOBODY now remembers original Trucolor — except, perhaps, for a few crazed aficionados who cherish images of Jane Russell in *Montana Belle* and other movies from the fading days of RKO. John Russell Taylor writes. But there are excellent reasons why any visitor to Los Angeles should, since the two colours that made up Trucolor's range were salmon pink and turquoise blue — the key colours of Los Angeles itself. Now they have also become the colours of post-modernism, although it is hard to be sure whether they are there as a proclamation of Hollywood continuity, or in recognition of the city's recently assumed role as cultural capital of the Pacific Rim.

Ten years ago, Los Angeles was a cultural desert, revealing its spread-out, laid-back charms only to long-term dwellers.

Nowadays, however, its wonders by Frank Lloyd Wright, Greene and Greene, Neutra and Schindler jostle for culture vultures' attention with the delights of Europe's great cities. While there, you can go to the opera at Music Centre, visit one of the many theatres and auditoriums and still take on Disneyland and Magic Mountain.

They still make movies there, although I doubt whether those buses that trail around the former homes of former stars yet take tourists to ogle outside David Hockney's eyrie. Give them time after all, he is also a star of Los Angeles.

Extracted from The Times Saturday Review

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UPDATE

Increased yen for research

THE Japanese government planned to double its research spending in the next 10 years from the current two trillion yen (£8.8 billion) a year to four trillion yen, officials of the Science and Technology Agency said in Tokyo last week. The extra money will go towards fundamental research and research designed to alleviate human problems, including those of the global environment.

Hepatitis find

AN Edinburgh team has discovered a new variety of the hepatitis virus, in work that could have world-wide implications for the screening of blood donations and the treatment of patients. The team, from the Scottish National

Blood Transfusion Service, the University of Edinburgh and the Medical Research Council, has discovered a third variant of the hepatitis C virus and suspects that it may be responsible for unexplained hepatitis infections and indeterminate test results around the world.

Antenna still stuck

YET another attempt to unstuck the 16ft umbrella-shaped main antenna on the Galileo spacecraft bound for Jupiter has failed, engineers at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena have announced. If it cannot be deployed, the mission will not achieve its objective of taking 50,000 pictures of Jupiter and its planets when Galileo gets

there in 1995. A smaller aerial could be used to send far fewer pictures. The United States space agency Nasa says the engineers will keep trying.

Island melts away

ELEVEN scientists have been forced to bale out of a research station on an island of ice after the ice took a wrong turn and started melting. Trouble started on the nine square mile island, the home to a research station in the Canadian Arctic for 11 years, when it floated off course at the end of 1990. It is now off Elles Ringnes Island, about 2,200 miles north of Ottawa, and breaking up. Efforts will be made to rescue £1.5 million worth of research equipment still on the floe.

"We're at the mercy of nature," said Bonnie Hryciuk, the acting director of Canada's Polar Continental Shelf Project.

Cancer check

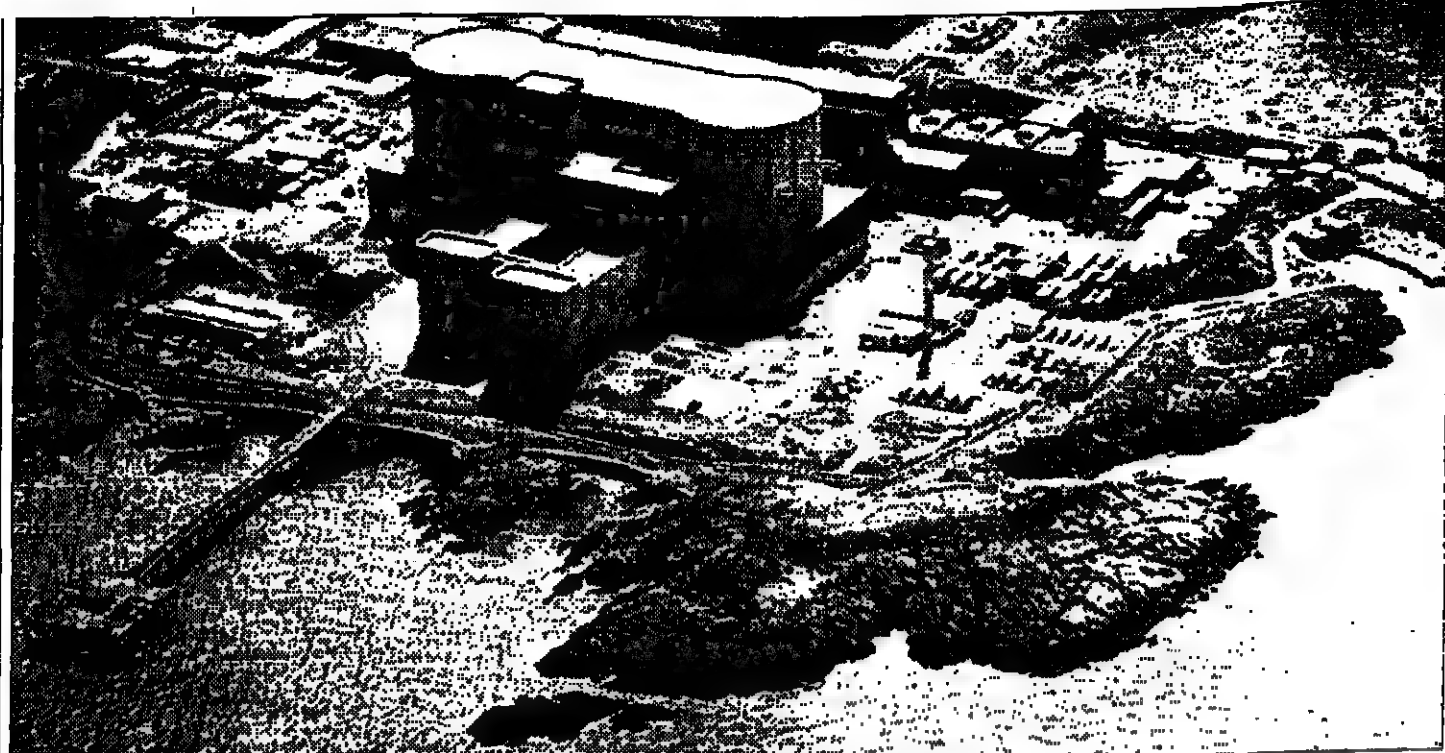
BLOOD tests may soon be used to detect cancer of the prostate, according to researchers from the United States National Institute of Aging. In a paper in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, they report that levels of a substance called prostate-specific antigen are raised in men with prostate disease. By following levels of the antigen over time, doctors can distinguish between cancer and benign prostate enlargement.

Rescue mission

THE space shuttle Endeavour is to take off next Monday on a satellite rescue mission, Nasa has announced. It will be the maiden flight for Endeavour, built as a replacement for the Challenger, lost in a disaster in 1986. Endeavour will carry seven astronauts, who will try to rescue an international communications satellite which is stranded 300 miles from Earth in a uselessly low orbit because of a flawed launch by a Titan rocket two years ago.

Wheat's wild streak

AUSTRALIAN and Chinese scientists have created a wheat resistant to dwarf yellow virus, which devastates crops in Europe, North America, China and Australia. They did so by inserting a gene from a wild grass into wheat. "Up to now there has been no resistance available to wheat, despite great expenditure on research around the world," said Phil Larkin, a scientist with the Australian government's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.



Good for a few years? Unlike most of the Magnox reactors, the two pressure vessels at Wylfa, Gwynedd, are of prestressed concrete

Life in the old reactor yet

Should Britain's Magnox plants be shut down or can they still be a useful — and safe — resource? Nigel Hawkes reports

Like an old but well-loved family runabout being coaxed through another MOT, Britain's first generation of nuclear power plants are putting off their last farewell for as long as they can.

Unlike Russia and Eastern Europe, where old plants are seen as a threat, Britain's nuclear engineers regard the Magnox stations, completed between 1962 and 1972, as a valuable resource that could go on generating electricity safely into the early years of next century. First, though, they must pass the nuclear equivalent of the MOT — approval by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

The plan has, inevitably, proved controversial. Bridget Woodman of Greenpeace says that the Magnox stations should be closed down immediately, and accuses Nuclear Electric of deliberate delay because it does not want to hear the heavy costs of decommissioning them. John Collier, Chairman of Nuclear Electric, dismisses the charge and asserts that "it is just plain common sense" to go on operating these stations beyond 30 years. "We think they are good in engineering terms for up to 40 years," he says.

The Magnox plants were expensive to build and by modern standards do not generate a huge amount of power. But by now their capital cost is largely written off, and the electricity they do generate

is cheap. It thus makes every kind of sense to Nuclear Electric to try to keep them going.

In typically British fashion no two Magnox plants were absolutely identical. Nuclear Electric's predecessor, the Central Electricity Generating Board, had already decided in 1988 that Berkeley, on the Severn, could not economically be kept going. But that left seven stations, each with two reactors and a total capacity of 3,220 MW.

The Magnox stations are conservatively-designed and cooled by gas. The size of their pressure vessels makes it impossible to consider total replacement. Twelve of the reactors have steel pressure vessels, the other four, at Oldbury and Wylfa, prestressed concrete.

The changes needed to justify a longer life include some to update safety systems to modern standards; new controls for the emergency shutdown systems, extra water-storage tanks for cooling the boilers, better fire detection systems, even earthquake sensors. Steam pipes have been checked for thickness by new high-energy X-ray techniques. Electrical cables have been tested using thermal

to prove it: so Nuclear Electric intends to raise the temperature of the inlet end of the pressure vessel to ensure it remains ductile.

There is a price to pay. The change means that at Wylfa the inlet temperature of the coolant gas will be raised by 40 to 50°C, reducing the station's output from 390 MW to 230 MW. In the other stations, where radiation damage is much less, the inlet temperature will be increased only when the reactors are being started up, so loss of output will be marginal.

Dr Smitton and John Moates, the station manager at Trawsfynydd, expect to have completed the modifications by September and made the safety case to the NII. With its approval, the station could be started up again in October.

Nuclear Electric appears confident the approval will be given, while Bridget Woodman is equally sure it won't. "Downrated, Trawsfynydd will produce only half of 1 per cent of Britain's electricity" she says. "The point is that Nuclear Electric cannot afford to close it, so it keeps making these safety cases to keep the issue open. The company just won't give up the ghost."

On the contrary, says Dr Smitton. "No technical factors have been identified that should preclude operation to lives of 35-40 years." It will be up to the NII to determine which is right.

Science beneath the microscope

Books by Bryan Appleyard and Mary Midgley have taken a critical look at the idea that science is a panacea. Next month *The Times*, with Dillons and Picador, is sponsoring a debate on the motion "The Heartless Truths of Science Strip Man of His Spiritual Dignity". For tickets, fill in the coupon.

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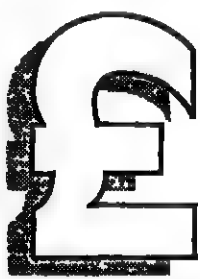
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Next month the controlling body of a battered British institution will meet to ponder the future. Melinda Wittstock suggests an agenda

20 questions for BBC governors

THE BBC is facing its biggest challenge since it began broadcasting 70 years ago. The Reithian ethos of public service which earned the corporation its reputation for innovation and quality is under threat as the government ponders the corporation's future in the newly competitive broadcasting environment.

Yet the 12 men and women ultimately responsible for the BBC's services, standards and philosophy have been silent about what they believe the future should hold after the expiry of its royal charter in 1996. Even many of the BBC's supporters fear that there is no modern-day Lord

Reith at the top with the necessary long-term vision and charisma to steer the service through to the next century.

The influence of Sir Michael Checkland, the director general, whose contract was extended for a year before he made way for his deputy, John Birt, has inevitably diminished, while protocol keeps Mr Birt from saying anything until he takes over in April next year.

Meanwhile, 15 internal taskforces, set up last year by Sir Michael to "think radically" about the shape of things to come, have generated a paper mountain of contradictory proposals, many of

which will not end up in the final document to be debated by governors and management during their annual retreat in the Cotswolds on May 20.

The BBC refuses to publish, or comment on, the taskforce reports of its 100 brightest middle managers, whose contributions to the debate are none the less in the public domain after a series of leaks. Their recommendations include abolishing regional production of all output except for news and current affairs; ending all union recognition and introducing personal contracts; privatising BBC Education and closing

the Open University production centre at Milton Keynes; abolishing Radio 5; leasing BBC1's airtime from 9am to 1pm every weekday to commercial broadcasters, relying on the independent sector for 40 per cent of television programmes, instead of the 25 per cent required by law, and shedding 10,000 jobs by 1996.

But as the internal policy debate rages, far more profound and controversial changes, governing the way programmes are made, are being implemented without any debate. Programme makers both inside and outside the BBC fear that the BBC is emasculating itself with market-

orientated reforms. Ripples of redundancies are transforming more and more BBC producers, writers and directors into nervous people on one-month contracts, while many of those who remain complain that they are being turned into accountants by the Producer Choice reforms, which force BBC TV resource departments to compete on price with outside contractors.

The governors, as "guardians of the public interest", charged with ensuring that the concerns of all viewers and listeners are represented, are coming under increasing pressure to ensure that

the BBC does not make any irreversible changes before the public has had its say. Also criticised for being too preoccupied with the day-to-day running of the BBC, rather than the long-term picture, they are not making their own views known, particularly as uncertainty pushes morale of BBC employees to its lowest ebb.

The BBC says it will not make any public statement about its future until the autumn, yet its reticence could mean that the agenda of the debate is set by the government. In an attempt to pre-empt this possibility, the governors should answer the questions below.

1 What, do you believe, is the BBC's fundamental *raison d'être*? a) to inform? b) to educate? or c) to entertain?

Sir John Harvey Jones, the former ICI chairman and now BBC2's *Troubleshooter*, has argued that no company or organisation can successfully adapt to a changing environment without "getting the strategic one-liner right". The BBC avoids articulating that one-liner at its peril.

2 Must the BBC be all things to all viewers and listeners in a multi-channel environment, or should it concentrate its increasingly limited resources on offering its audience what its commercial competitors cannot provide?

The BBC argues that it cannot justify the licence fee unless it serves all who pay it. But governors are sure to be challenged on whether retention of the fee is a strong enough argument for broadcasting game shows and Australian soaps just to keep audiences on par with its commercial rivals.

Standards of programme-making could fall in the commercial sector if the BBC does not compete head-on with ITV, Channel 4, satellite and the new Channel 5 in popular entertainment. On the other hand, quality might suffer if the BBC spreads its resources too thin, rather than concentrating on what its rivals do not do at all and what it can do best.

Public funding via direct taxation could still be justified if the BBC occupied the higher ground of news, current affairs, education, arts, religion, children's, adaptations of literary classics as well as innovative drama and comedy. All taxpayers fund the opera and the arts, so the argument goes, but many in the BBC believe the corporation would quickly be marginalised if it became merely a provider of scenic, eccentric programmes no one else wants to broadcast and few want to watch.

3 As guardians of the public interest, will you as governors ask licence payers which BBC services they most value by ensuring there is a full public enquiry into the future of the BBC?

BBC governors and management have been accused of pre-empting public debate by proceeding with the Producer Choice reforms, which many fear will change BBC's ethos, turning it from spending body to company without even the pretence of debate.

4 How will you justify the licence fee as BBC audiences decline through the decade as the number and competitiveness of new commercial channels increase?

Unless the overwhelming number of Britons watch BBC1 and BBC2



The governors: top row, from left: Marmaduke Hussey, chairman, Lord Barnett, vice-chairman, Sir Kenneth Bloomfield (Northern Ireland governor), Jane Glover, Sir Graham Hills (Scotland), Lady James. Bottom row, Dr Gwyn Jones (Wales), Bill Jordan, Lord Nicholas Gordon Lennox, Keith Oates, Dr John Roberts, Mrs Shahwar Sadeque

each week, the government is likely to reduce, or replace, the licence fee. Last autumn BBC1's ratings fell to their lowest level in years to 33 per cent, a full 10 per cent behind ITV. An extra £60 million freed by efficiencies to revitalise drama and entertainment has so far helped BBC1 back up to about 35 per cent. But bracing itself for a fall in audiences, the BBC is measuring its performance by the number of people it reaches at some point each week. Will Wyatt, managing director of BBC Television, says he will be content as long as BBC1 and BBC2 are watched for a minimum of two hours each week in at least 90 per cent of households. The doomsday scenario is a drop in BBC1's average ratings to below 25 per cent.

5 In five years, say media analysts, BSkyB's revenue will be greater than that of BBC TV (£943 million last year). How will you ensure that the BBC continues as a dominant force?

The gap between licence fee income and UK commercial broadcasting revenue will have grown from a current £676 million to more than £1 billion by the end of 1996 and about £2 billion by 2003, says Zenith Media. By the turn of the century, the BBC could find itself unable to spend as much on original programme making as the satellite channels.

6 BSkyB, whose success is dependent on securing Hollywood movie and sporting rights, will soon be able to outbid the BBC at every turn. Will you let viewers miss out on sports?

Sky Sports' recent coup on World Cup cricket showed how willing sports fans were to buy satellite dishes.

7 How do you plan to ensure that the BBC attracts and retains the best talent when commercial rivals will have more money?

Loyalty no longer has currency, as the BBC cuts its in-house production capacity and forces more and more into the independent sector. Established independent producers, meanwhile, will tend to sell programmes to the highest bidder.

8 In most cable households BBC1 and BBC2 can be found on channels 46 and 48. Research in the US shows that channels 1 to ten are the most watched. What strategy do you have for ensuring that both BBC channels are not marginalised in the cable dial's double digits?

By 2000, more than 14 million British homes will have access to cable and 55 to 60 per cent of those homes will have subscribed, according to the Independent Television Commission (ITC). Placement on the cable dial is likely to be dictated

by which broadcasters bid the most. If the BBC does not compete in this new cut-throat climate, BBC1 and BBC2 could end up BBC18 and BBC25.

9 If the BBC finds itself unable to run all of its present services, which of the following would you cut, and in what order? a) local radio b) Radio 5 c) Radio 2 d) television sport e) training f) regional TV production g) feature films h) cultural patronage i) educational output j) BBC2

10 If you are forced to cut existing services, will a 24-hour BBC satellite news channel still be a priority given that both Sky News and CNN are already competing in Britain?

11 What type of commercial funding would you prefer if the government decides to reduce the licence fee: advertising or subscription?

ITV, Channel 4, Channel 5, satellite and commercial radio stations — all competing for static revenue — will lobby hard to ensure that the BBC is not allowed to take advertising. Research commissioned by the BBC shows that if the BBC were to take two minutes of advertising an hour it could make £334 million in 2000. Subscription, meanwhile, could marginalise the BBC. However, a study by the London

Business School conducted more than a year ago found that nearly all television viewers would subscribe voluntarily to the BBC if its licence fee were abolished, with most households willing to pay at least £200 a year. However, the study did not take into account competition from satellite and cable channels.

12 How will you better demonstrate that viewers get better value at £77 for the whole of BBC services than the £250 a year an increasing number of viewers pay for subscription channels on satellite?

Recent research conducted for The Voice of the Listener and Viewer lobby group revealed that viewers would be willing to pay an average £10.38 per week for just 20 BBC TV programmes. That translates into about £500 a year compared to the £77 paid for two TV channels, five national radio stations, a local radio network, cultural patronage and other BBC services.

13 Do you think the BBC should continue as its own regulator?

George Russell, the chairman of the ITC, has argued that it is a conflict of interest for those who make and broadcast programmes to also regulate them and called for the establishment of only one regulator for television.

14 Do you believe the BBC must operate as a business in order to be efficient?

Many broadcasters believe the BBC is confusing the need for greater efficiency with the establishment of company structure. Inside the BBC, programme makers complain that not enough thought was put into the internal market producer choice reforms. Tony Lennon, co-president of the BBC's main union, Bectu, said resource departments such as scenery had been weighed down with such large overheads that even if his members agreed to work for free they could not compete on price with outside providers. A North Acton scenery unit was recently forced to close, selling off £75,000 of scenery; to rent back later just three pieces cost £2,000, he said.

15 What do you believe is the minimum level of in-house production needed to allow the BBC to call itself a significant programme-maker? Would it be acceptable to allow independents to make half the BBC's output?

Broadcasting legislation requires the BBC to meet a 25 per cent independent production quota. But some BBC programme makers fear that the Producer Choice reforms are transforming it into a publisher-broadcaster akin to Channel 4.

despite recent denials by Sir Michael.

16 Who are you most concerned with pleasing as the expiry of the charter approaches? a) BBC management b) BBC employees c) the Heritage Ministry d) the viewer and listener e) the chattering classes f) Tory MPs?

The cancellation of Peter Jay's *Panorama* programme about the government's record on the economy during the election campaign heightened existing fears that the corporation is prone to self-censorship. Sir Michael says the producer choice reforms are meant to ensure the government cannot attack it on grounds of inefficiency, but many in the industry believe that strategy might not be best for the corporation.

17 How large a proportion of licence fee income do you think can justifiably be spent on radio, particularly if BBC TV begins to earn extra revenue through sponsorship and the commercial activities of BBC Enterprises?

Thirty per cent of the BBC's licence fee income is devoted to radio.

18 Do you think the BBC should be allowed to use its own airtime to advertise its own commercial ventures?

Last year the BBC was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission by the DTI after rival publishers complained that the BBC's on-air promotion of magazines such as *Radio Times* and *Food & Drink* put them at a disadvantage. The BBC had been told by the Home Office it must raise £72 million a year from the commercial exploitation of its assets to augment the licence fee.

19 Do you truly represent the concerns of all licence payers? Should you?

Many broadcasters believe the governors are drawn from too narrow a base, and that the list of the great and the good must be extended to create a more diverse board, both socially and regionally. It has also been suggested that governors leave the management of the BBC to its managers to avoid conflicts of interest between the public and the BBC.

20 Who is the man, woman or committee with the necessary vision, sense of purpose and enthusiasm who will steer the BBC into the 21st century?

The governors have been criticised for the manner in which they chose the next director-general. The position was not advertised, even internally, and neither Sir Michael nor John Birt were invited to outline their future strategy.

Painting a wider canvass

Direct mail is widening its constituency, helping the major political parties target potential voters for their opinions

Bored with hearing dubious claims from politicians about "the feeling on the doorstep"? If so, relax. As a political cliché it could be on its way out. But also beware: instead, they might start referring to "the feeling in the reply coupons", as direct mail becomes increasingly important to political campaigning.

"Direct mail is the electrifying of the future," says Brendan Bruce, former director of communications for the Conservative Party. "Image-makers have always wanted to talk to people directly. The technology to do this has arrived. In the past it was done with canvassing, but that can't get round everybody, and getting the right quality of canvassers is virtually impossible."

All three main parties have already used direct mail successfully, especially for fund raising. While Conservative Central Office will not reveal detailed figures, Chris Woodhams, head of direct mail, says that over the past year, "we are talking millions of pounds".

However, it is Labour's efforts which have most impressed the marketing industry. During the four weeks of the election campaign alone its mailshots raised about £1.3 million in donations from more than 60,000 individuals. Tony Manwaring, the party's business manager, describes it as "the most successful broad-based fundraising campaign in British politics".

But fund-raising is only part of the direct mail story. Many constituency organisations in all three parties have also used "persuasive" direct mail, as it is known,

to target particular groups of voters, so that the elderly, say, receive personalised letters about pensions.

By the next election, persuasive direct mail will be much more widespread and sophisticated, exploiting the increasingly detailed information about millions of people collected by commercial databases. Parties will use its ability not only to target key voters in marginal seats but also to build a relationship with the electorate.

Here the Tories seem to have the upper hand. Their trail has been blazed by the constituency association in Kensington, London. Helped by ICD, the database company, it has been mailing selected voters with questionnaires for four years, seeking their views on national and local issues. The party held the seat on a swing of only 1.4 per cent against them, one of the best in London.

More than 100 Tory constituencies employed similar questionnaires. Many have also used data supplied by ICD to help target their mailings. The company has computer files on about 40 million people, nearly the entire electorate. ICD is now expanding the information it can offer political parties. Every three months it sends an extensive questionnaire about spending patterns and interests to a million people. Last February, for the first time, it also asked for political opinions. The company intends to build up a detailed profile of, for example, the characteristics of undecided voters. It will then be able to supply political parties with lists of voters with specific characteristics.

Dear Mr Voter: how the two main parties use direct mail

"What we do for insurance companies we can do for political parties," says Tony Book of ICD. "Every marginal in the country could go one way or the other due to direct marketing techniques."

Developments here reflect those abroad. One of the most successful international exponents of direct mail has been Australia's Labor party, and of course the United States is also leading the way.

Dayton Bird, a direct marketing expert and adviser to the Tory party, says: "In US politics more money is now spent on direct marketing than on conventional advertising. The questionnaire technique will be used more and more in Britain, because people appreciate the continuing communication."

Labour is also looking to a

similar vision of the future. "British campaigning will increasingly be based on what is important to individual electors," Mr Manwaring says. "The challenge is developing an increasingly sophisticated understanding of how key voters in key areas think."

The only likely obstacle to the growth of political direct mail is the European Commission. A potentially highly restrictive draft directive on data protection is causing concern in the direct mail industry. But Tony Coad, of the European Direct Marketing Association, which has been lobbying against the directive, says: "When it comes to it, the politicians will probably give themselves an exemption."

MARTIN ROSENBAUM

Sense, not sensation

Labour is wrong if it thinks Britons voted the Tories back into power because the tabloid newspapers told them to

As one who has been called a "menace to the Constitution" (by Sir Edward Heath) and a "swine" (by John Biffen), I urge all who suffer abuse to bear it charitably. After all, I have waxed far on their generous tributes to my notoriety.

And anyone who has briefed the parliamentary lobby as much as I have is never thrown when that glazed look comes over journalists who think they have another loony on their hands.

I have, however, been getting a lot of glazed looks lately. This is because of my scepticism over whether the popular newspapers were responsible for returning John Major to power.

"It stands to common sense that they did," my critics say. "And if you don't think that the press matters all that much, how come you spent half your working life as a press secretary trying to secure a good — not to say adoring — press for the government of the day?"

Allow me to present the case for the defence. First, I have a difficulty. Labour failed to fulfil the general expectation that it would form the government, although I never altered my almost dead accurate forecast of an overall Tory majority of 20. The pollsters failed to foreshadow the Tories' late surge, and Conservative Central Office failed abysmally to command the debate or argue positively why the Tories should have a fourth term.

Who, then — if not the terrible tabloids — guided the hands of floating voters to produce, for

them, the almost perfect result: a kick up the backside for the government without the risks of a Labour government?

Who, if not the "funnies" dashed Labour's hopes among Essex men and their Tracys and Lancashire lads and their lasses? These government makers and breakers live in prime tabloid territory, just as do Yorkshire Tykes. And what happened in the White Rose county? Nigh on 20 per cent of Yorkshire constituencies swung away from Labour and towards the Tories.

No wonder Lord McAlpine, Tory fundraiser extraordinary (retd), was moved, in his frustration with Conservative Central Office's peculiar blend of electioneering, to put it all down to the News Group, Associated and Express Newspapers.

I am sure that Rupert Murdoch and his ermine colleagues, Lords Rothermere and Stevens, would like to think they wielded such influence over political affairs. But the research evidence, such as it is, deems otherwise.

For example, half *The Sun's* readers are found to have voted Labour, against their paper's advice. Similarly, the swing Tories among readers of the *Daily Mirror*, which campaigned slavishly for Neil Kinnock, was, it seems, marginally greater than the national average.

So why, if newspapers count for so little in politics, did I mis-spend more than half a working life on that brutal frontline between government and media?

Let us leave aside such honest reasons as the opportunity to indulge my fascination with politics, and look at the issue through the eyes of a professional servant of government.

Democratic governments need to explain themselves to their electors. The more effectively they do so the better they are likely to be regarded. Link this with my conviction that the British are the world's most sophisticated electorate and you can easily square the circle.

In short, I do not believe that elections are won or lost in the three weeks leading up to the poll. Common sense dictates that a sophisticated electorate judges a government and opposition parties over time.

In the absence of scientific research to show precisely how tabloid readers won marginals for the Tories, my long-termism is a more impressive theory, and deserves fewer glazed looks.

Bernard Ingham

PRESS WATCH

Practice makes perfect managers

Health services now depend on practice managers to handle their affairs, Bernadine Coverley says

Over the past two years, health centres and GPs' surgeries have become increasingly business-like. The introduction of new contracts between GPs and the health services gave all practices more financial responsibilities. The key coordinating job changed from administration to active management. Since most doctors want to put their energies into making patients better, practice managers have been taken on to balance the books, handle staff contracts and monitor the delivery of services.

While the practice manager is not as visible to patients as the doctor or receptionist, he or she is vital to the smooth running of the surgery. Because this requires personnel, financial and computer skills, it has attracted a new breed of professional.

Stephen Embleton, who is 32, came from a management background in the City before taking on his current job in a north London practice, in which he is responsible for 30 full and part-time staff providing for 19,000 patients. But despite his management and computer experience, he says that "this was a bigger job than I thought it

was going to be. It's not as nine-to-five as you would imagine". Mr Embleton, who manages one of the largest practices, is committed to modern methods.

The ethos around which the practice manager works is one of best care provided cost-effectively. He or she therefore has to carry out "medical audits" to check on performance levels and the value of services. From implementing all NHS regulations and directives to organising staff training, the practice manager has to be in touch with all aspects of the operation.

The new direction in general practice needs managers interested in development and capable with budgets. David Dungworth, of Gloucestershire Family Health Services Authority (FHSA), says: "From our perspective, good management skills are essential for the effective use of cash-limited resources."

Together with Bristol Business School, his FHSA is taking a look at gaps in existing in-service training. "We must recognise the aspirations of practice managers, who in our experience are enthusiastic and dedicated," he says.

At 24, Andrew Walsham is one



Andrew Walsham, who went into management from computing: "It's like running a business"

of the youngest in Britain. After computer and accountancy studies, he took on a computer job at a busy surgery before becoming deputy

practice manager for six GPs with 12,000 patients. He has now completed the Diploma in Practice Management

and manages a progressive group of four GPs with 5,700 patients in the small Yorkshire town of Odey. As well as the daily routine, his

surgery has links with the local hospital and produces a patients' newsletter. "It could never be monotonous. It's like running your own business," he says.

Since fundholders are only coming to the end of their first year, many practice managers are pioneers. Quality control and meetings seem to be their two main preoccupations.

Pam Wiggott spends a large part of the week in meetings with the local hospital and community services, such as physiotherapists. She collaborates closely with the senior partner, who is designated as fundholder. Prices of services and value for money are the key topics of discussion. She also meets with other fundholding managers from the Greater London area to discuss what sort of contracts work best, whether budgets are being exceeded, and, of course, what to do when there are problems with either.

Although it is still possible to come in as medical secretary or computer operator and become deputy and then practice manager, experience in management or finance is usually necessary. Advertised posts often ask for the Diploma in Practice Management computer skills.

Information: Association of Medical Secretaries, Practice Administrators & Receptionists, Tavistock House South, Tavistock Square, London WC1. Association of Health Centre & Practice Administrators, c/o 14 Princess Gate, London SW7.



Double dating

DIRECTIONS Week '92, supported by The Times and The Sunday Times, at the Business Design Centre, Islington, north London, from June 30 to July 4, combines two career fairs this year. The London Graduate Recruitment Fair, from June 30 to July 2 is organised for graduates by London University's careers advisory service. A European Pavilion will be an additional attraction.

The Schools' Fair, on July 3 and 4, will cover degree choice, university and vocational training programmes for school-leavers. Students will be able to meet business and college representatives.

● Hotline: Schools' Fair 071-782 6872 London Graduate Recruitment Fair 0800-252183

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Please quote Ref: B3000.
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Six potential Trusts, located within the North Western Region, are seeking to become Trusts in 1993. Each of these units will be making a formal application within the next month and this will be followed by a period of public consultation. In the Autumn, the Secretary of State for Health will decide whether to grant Trust Status and will appoint a Chairman to each designated Trust.

Each Trust will be managed by a board of executive and non-executive directors led by a non-executive Chairman. The boards will be responsible for ensuring that its assets and operations are managed to deliver quality services to their community at the best value for money.

Chairmen are expected to serve 3 days per week and non-executive directors 1-3 days per month. Appointments are for a fixed term to a maximum of 4 years. Chairmen will receive remuneration at a rate of £15,000 - £20,000 per annum and non executive directors £5,000 per annum.

The North Western Regional Health Authority is seeking to identify potential Chairmen and non-executive directors for the following units: Calderstones Hospital, South Manchester Community and Priority Unit, Stockport Health Services, Tameside and Glossop Health Services, West Lancashire Health Services, Wigan and Leigh Health Services.

Applications are invited from candidates who live or work close to the area served by the unit. Potential Chairmen and non-executive directors are likely to have substantial achievements in their professional field and in management in a large organisation. Candidates should apply by letter enclosing a detailed curriculum vitae indicating why they are interested and the positions and units for which they would like to be considered to Sir Bruce Martin QC, Chairman, North Western Regional Health Authority, Gateway House, Piccadilly South, Manchester M60 7LP. Further information can be obtained from Miss M O'Dwyer on 061-237 2006. The closing date for applications is 18th May 1992.

Applications are encouraged from women who are currently under-represented at these levels in the organisation.

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For further information please contact Mr P. Holliday, Official Analyst on 0534 36455.

Application forms and job descriptions available from the States Personnel Department, Cyril Le Marquand House, P.O. Box 600, The Parade, St. Helier, telephone: 0534 603001 or 24 hour answerphone service on 0534 69705.

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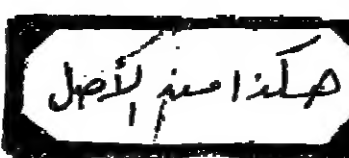


Closing date for completed application forms Thursday 21st May. Interviews will be held on 9 June.

LINCOLN COLLEGE OXFORD CHAPLAINCY

The College invites applications from graduates in priest's orders of the Church of England for the post of Chaplain. It is hoped that the successful candidate will take up office on 1 October 1992 and not later than 1 January 1993. Some preference will be given to candidates who are academically qualified to hold a Junior Research Fellowship of the College. Candidates should be under the age of 35 on 1 October 1992.

Further particulars can be obtained from the Rector, Lincoln College, Oxford, OX1 3DR, to whom applications should be submitted by 22 May 1992.



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By Order of the Directors
J. C. MITCHELL
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11th March 1992

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TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF GN Great Nordic

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Company will be held on Tuesday 19 May 1992 at 3.30 pm at Industrihuset, H.C. Andersens Boulevard 18, DK-1596 Copenhagen V, to transact the following business:

- To receive and consider the report for the year ended 31 December 1991
- To receive and adopt the annual financial statements and discharge the Board of Directors and the Management from their obligations.
- To consider and, if thought fit, pass a resolution for the distribution of the net profit for the year, including the declaration of a dividend on the shares of the Company.
- To consider and, if thought fit, pass a resolution to amend Article 4 of the Articles of Association for the purpose of authorising the Directors to increase the share capital of the Company to DKK 767,391,000.00 and a resolution to amend Articles 2 and 13 relating to the availability of documents for inspection and the collection of admission cards in London and Paris, respectively.
- To consider and, if thought fit, pass a resolution proposed by the Board of Directors that an amount of DKK 318,301,432.03 be transferred from the share premium fund to the distributable reserves of the Company (Other reserves).
- To consider and, if thought fit, pass a resolution proposed by the Board of Directors that the Company be entitled to acquire up to 10 per cent of its own shares.
- To elect Directors of the Company.
- To appoint two auditors for the current financial year.

For the passing of the resolutions set out under items d. and e. on the agenda, it is required under Article 18 of the Articles of Association that not less than one quarter of the share capital be represented at the General Meeting and that the resolution be approved by not less than two thirds of the votes cast and two thirds of the voting share capital represented at the General Meeting. In the event that the required percentage of the share capital is not represented, but where the resolution has been approved by the above-mentioned qualified majority of votes, the resolution may, however, be finally passed at a new general meeting convened for the transaction of this business by the said qualified majority, irrespective of the percentage of the voting share capital represented at the General Meeting.

From Monday 11 May 1992 the agenda and the full and complete resolutions to be proposed at the General Meeting, as well as the annual financial statements and consolidated accounts with the Auditors' Report and the Report of the Directors will be available for inspection by the shareholders at the Company's registered office at Kongens Nytorv 26, second floor, in London and Paris, and not later than eight days prior to the General Meeting the said material will be posted to any shareholder on the Company's register of members to such address as has been given to the Company.

Admission cards to the General Meeting will, until five days prior to the meeting, be available at request from the Company's office on all weekdays (excluding Saturdays) between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm to any shareholder who can prove a good title to his shares. As far as bearer shares are concerned, the shareholder shall prove his title to such shares by presenting a statement of his holding of shares in the Company as at 7 May 1992, issued by the shareholder's account-holding bank.

Any right to vote shall be conditional upon the voting share being registered in the name of the shareholder and entered in the register of members maintained by the Company and upon the shareholder being entitled to attend the meeting pursuant to the above-mentioned provisions. Where the shareholder has acquired the share by way of transfer, the share shall furthermore have been registered in the name of the shareholder for not less than three months prior to the date of the General Meeting.

No director is employed with the Company under a contract of service.

Copenhagen, 28 April 1992
The Board of Directors

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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2776

ACROSS

- 1 Forearm flexor (6)
- 4 Instructed gradually (6)
- 9 Resolute type (7)
- 10 Suddenly emerge (1,2)
- 11 Chief (4)
- 12 Evigence (4,3,4)
- 14 Evigence (4,3,4)
- 15 Grows (7)
- 19 Come to earth (4)
- 22 Grieve (5)
- 24 Obstinate, stupid (7)
- 25 Struggle (6)
- 26 Naked public dash (6)

DOWN

- 1 Dish (4)
- 2 Bedspread (5)
- 3 Heavy French carthorse (9)
- 5 Fire shelf (3)
- 6 Below 0 degrees (3,4)
- 7 Expel abroad (6)
- 8 Skilled drawer (1,1)
- 11 Fuss (3)
- 13 Malady (9)
- 15 Suffering nervous state (7)
- 16 Daze (3)
- 17 Curtail rail cover (6)
- 20 Sound (5)
- 21 Secrecy disclosure (4)
- 23 No score (3)

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Alekhine - Tartakower, Kievanov, 1927. How did white capture the black queen? The main combination is fairly simple, but there is a sting at the tail end. Can you see it?

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2775

ACROSS: 1 Flower 5 Wor- thy 8 Aye 9 Stamen 10 Digest 11 Anon 12 Overview 14 Neil Arm- strong 17 Grabbing 19 Quit 21 Agenda 23 Idiocy 24 Win 25 Odd one 26 Go-kart

DOWN: 2 Let on 3 Women- s Lib 4 Rancour 5 Wedge 6 Bug 7 Has- been 13 Very quick 15 En- raged 16 Sighting 18 In- awe 20 Incur 22 Neo

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TUITION & COURSES

TUESDAY
HOBBIES & PASTIMES
LIVESTOCK

WEDNESDAY
HOUSEHOLD CONTENTS

THURSDAY
FAMILY MATTERS

FRIDAY
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

SATURDAY
SATURDAY SALES
PRESENT SURPRISE

MONDAY
EDUCATION: University Appointments, Prep & Public School Appointments, Educational Courses, Scholarships and Fellowships with editorial. LA CREME DE LA CREME: Secretarial Appointments.

TUESDAY
LEGAL APPOINTMENTS: Solicitors, Commercial Lawyers, Legal Offices, Private & Public Practice with editorial. CREATIVE & MEDIA APPOINTMENTS: with editorial.

WEDNESDAY
GENERAL APPOINTMENTS: Secretarial, Town & Country, Overseas, Retail, COMMERCIAL PROPERTY: with editorial.

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BBC1

6.00 Ceefax (24916) 6.30 **BBC Breakfast News** (21079003)
9.05 Gloria, Gloria Hunniford talks to Jeffrey Archer, Paul Shane and Kim Wilde about ambition and success (113551) 9.50 **Hot Chefs**, Shaun Hill prepares antichoke nissarda (8396409)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (4066461) 10.05 **Playdays** (15167003) 10.25 **The Family News** (14016848) 10.35 **Gibberish**, Celebrity word game (7218515)
11.00 News, regional news and weather (3351190)
11.05 World Snooker, The start of the quarter-final stage of the Embassy world professional championship, introduced by Eamonn Holmes. With News, regional news and weather at 12.00 (6904454)
12.20 Pebble Mill, Music and chat introduced by Judi Sifers (1802751)
12.55 Regional News and weather (11916225)
1.00 One O'Clock News, (Ceefax) Weather (89770)
1.30 Neighbours, (Ceefax) (64590409) 1.50 **Turnabout**, Quiz game that tests word power. Presented by Rob Curling (64594225)
2.15 Film: House Calls (1978) starring Walter Matthau and the new MP Glenda Jackson. Comedy about a philanthropic physician who meets his match when he attends a "helpless" accident victim. Directed by Howard Zieff (617596)
3.50 Just So Stories, How the Leopard Got His Spots (2878935) 4.00 **Chuddelevision** (2298461) 4.20 **Happy Families**, Part one of *Master But the Baker's Boy* (1) (9856312) 4.35 **Pirates of Dark Water**, Animated adventures of a teenage space warrior. (Ceefax) (850138) 5.00 **Newsround** (7830732)
5.10 The Lowdown: Positive Thinking
 ● CHOICE: If you happen to have seen *Bookmark* last night, with its autopsy of a child AIDS victim, this programme featuring youngsters with the HIV virus will be very distressing for you. Yet as its title implies it is very positive in outlook. We see how enlightened teenagers in Edinburgh volunteer to work in AIDS hospices, we hear how Lathian region's education authority has introduced the subject of AIDS in primary school classrooms, and towards the end of the programme we meet Kate, a lively six-year-old who is leading a normal life despite having, as she puts it, "a bug inside her". She knows very little, yet she knows exactly what she needs to know. It's mostly about when you get out, or something", she says. (Ceefax) (7410886)
5.35 Neighbours (1) (Ceefax) (901848), Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Anna Ford. (Ceefax) Weather (583)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (935), Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 News Addicts, Noel Edwards introduces another selection of people with obsessions, including strong man Geoff Capes and commentator John Helm. (Ceefax) (43939)
7.30 Eastenders, (Ceefax) (119)
8.00 Just Good Friends, Comedy series about an on/off romance, written by John Sullivan (1) (Ceefax) (3041)



Teamwork detectives police the criminal world (8.30pm)

8.30 Crime Limited, The first of a new ten-part series in which the cameras go behind the scenes of crime. (Ceefax) (9) (8948)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (2770)
9.30 Film: Physical Evidence (1989) starring Burt Reynolds and Theresa Russell. Thriller about a former policeman with a history of violence who goes on a binge and wakes up to find he has been accused of the murder of a mobster. Directed by Michael Crichton (973461). Wales: Week in Week Out 10.11.35 *Physical Evidence*
11.05 Film 32 with Barry Norman. Includes reviews of *Howard's End* and *Grand Canyon* and an interview with Terence Davies who talks about his new film *The Long Day*. (Ceefax) (11) 11.55-12.25 *Football* — Northern Ireland v Lithuania 11.55-12.25 *Football*
11.35 Private Eye, Private detective series set in 1950s Los Angeles. Starring Michael Gough and Josh Brodin (505428)
12.25am Weather (2203368), Wales: Film 12.55 *News and weather*

BBC2

8.00 News (6442409)
8.15 Westminster, Highlights of yesterday's election of the new Speaker (6425732)
8.30 A Place in the Sun (1408041)
9.05 Daytime on 2, Educational programmes
2.00 News and weather (30508480) followed by *You and Me* (1) (2315772) 2.15 *See Heart Magazine* series for the deaf community (1131641)
2.45 World Snooker, Eamonn Holmes introduces action from the opening quarter-final matches in the Embassy world professional championship. The commentators at the Crucible, Sheffield, are Clive Everton, Jack Kameh and Ted Lowe. With News, regional news and weather at 3.00 and 3.50 (8546461)
6.00 Film: Five Card Stud (1958) starring Dean Martin, Robert Mitchum and Roddy McDowell. Western drama about a stranger who is caught cheating in a card game. Although one of the seven players tries to stop them the others help the man. Later, two of the men concerned are found dead and a cat and mouse search for the killer commences as he stalks the remaining men of the lynch party. Directed by Henry Hathaway (2737115)
7.40 Animation Now, Three day animations from Hungary (474225)
7.50 The Lion's Den, The second of two programmes about an experiment to find out about the craft of teaching. One teacher, fresh from college, is put in charge of a class of unruly 14-year-olds. His performance is assessed by a former head teacher (740577)
8.30 Ex-S: Annie Lennox, The singer talks about her relationship with former boyfriend David Byrne as well as her health, joy, happiness and baggage (8490)
9.00 World Snooker, Partner Vine introduces more quarter-final coverage from the Crucible, Sheffield (409799)



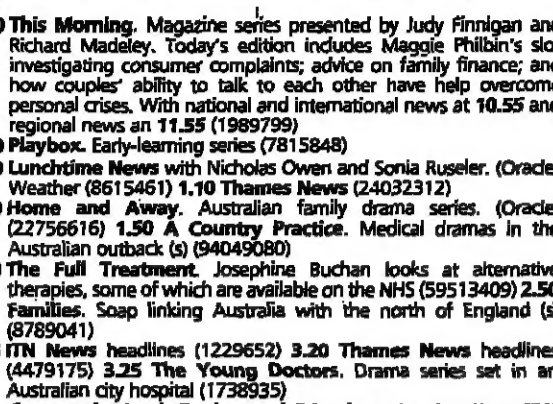
Metropolitan campaigner: charge nurse Graham Pink (5.30pm)

9.50 40 Minutes: Dear Mr Pink
 ● CHOICE: Manchester charge nurse Graham Pink became a national hero when he told the Guardian about his campaign to improve the night staff levels on the geriatric wards where he worked. He had written hundreds of letters of complaint, even approaching the prime minister, but the replies were always polite but ineffectual. This 40 Minutes tells the whole story, up to Pink's dismissal. The film-makers were clearly delighted to find a staff nurse who would speak out in his favour, but the fact remains that other nurses are still being sympathetic to him. Perhaps they are afraid, but I suspect there is more to it than that. I'm not sure they really like the meticulous Mr Pink: saints and martyrs — those who really believe in what they are doing and refuse to compromise — are not always the easiest people to get along with. (Ceefax) (409225)
10.30 Newsnight with Peter Snow (448409)
11.15 World's Snooker, Highlights of today's quarter-final matches (11815)
11.55 Weather (213770)
12.00 Open University: The Psychology of Addiction (75436). Ends at 12.30am

VideoPlus and the Video PlusCode
 The numbers now appearing next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to instantly programme your video recorder with a VideoPlus number. The numbers are listed next to the programme title for the programme you wish to record. For more details call VideoPlus on 0800 121 240 or visit our website at www.videoplus.co.uk or write to VideoPlus, Unit 77, Fulbourn Road, Peterborough, Cambs, PE3 9PP. VideoPlus (TM) and Video PlusCode are trademarks of Genie Marketing Ltd.

ITV

6.00 TV-am (8541480)
9.25 Cross Wits, Word game hosted by Tom O'Connor (4181206) 9.55 **Thames News** (7105026)
10.00 The Time... The Place..., A debate on a topical subject (2288041)
10.40 This Morning, Magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes Maggie Philbin's slot investigating consumer complaints about family finances; and how couples' ability to talk to each other can help overcome personal crises. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 (1989799)
12.10 Playhouse, Early-learning series (7815848)
12.30 Lunchtime News with Nicholas Owen and Sonia Ruseler. (Oracle) Weather (6615461) 1.10 **Thames News** (2403212)
1.20 Home and Away, Australian family drama series. (Oracle) (22756616) 1.50 **A Country Practice**, Medical dramas in the Australian outback (5) (94049080)
2.20 The Full Treatment, Josephine Buchanan looks at alternative therapies, some of which are available on the NHS (59513409) 2.50 **Families**, Soap linking Australia with the north of England (5) (8789041)
3.15 ITN News headlines (1229652) 3.20 **Thames News** headlines (4479175) 3.25 **The Young Doctors**, Drama series set in an Australian city hospital (1738935)
3.55 Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends, Animation (8552670) 4.10 **Tales From the Pooch Deck**, Comedy adventures of a pirate, narrated by Griff Rhys Jones and starring Helen Adcock Wood. (Oracle) (2203393) 4.35 **Dan's Den**, Drama series (8525206) 5.00 **Cartoon**, Featuring Foghorn Leghorn (7865428)
5.10 Blockbusters, General knowledge quiz for teenagers, presented by Bob Holness (8756596)
5.40 Early Evening News with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather (189799) 5.55 **Thames News** (1) (468848)
6.00 Home and Away (1) (Oracle) (751)
6.30 Thames News, (Oracle) (913)
7.00 Emmerdale, Soap set in the Yorkshire Dales (9461)
7.30 Survival: The Devil's Island, T. McKenna narrates this documentary about the wildlife of the Saïre islands off the coast of south-east Ireland. (Oracle) (515)
8.00 The Bill, Trial and Error. When a jury acquits a suspect Burnside decides to see that justice is done for the victim's sake. (Oracle) (5409)
8.30 The Benny Hill Show, A compilation of the late comedian's sketches (4916)
9.00 Medics, Hospital drama series starring Tom Baker, Sue Johnston, Francesca Ryan and Les Fawcett. (Oracle) (511)
9.00 News at Ten with Alistair Stewart and Julia Somerville. (Oracle) Weather (57751) 10.30 **Thames News** (850747)
10.40 Viewpoint '92: Heaven Must Wait, The second and last part of a documentary examining the lengths people go to avoid or delay the ageing process (5) (293886)
11.40 Prisoner: Call Block H, Drama series set in an Australian women's reformatory (468867)
12.30am Video View, Mariella Frostrup reviews the latest video releases (22078)
1.30 The Equalizer, McCall returns to the aid of a witness to a murder who is to be the killer's next victim (70815)
2.30 Donahue, Married couples talk about their recipe for domestic bliss (4232271)
3.30 60 Minutes, Award-winning American news magazine (52441)
4.30 Stopped, Scott Baldo stars in this drama about a young man who becomes involved with drugs in order to be "one of the boys" (30894)
5.30 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman (53691). Ends at 6.00



Helpful advice for the consumer: Maggie Philbin (10.40am)

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CHANNEL 4

6.00 Channel 4 Daily (8549022)
9.25 Schools (43295867)
12.00 The Parliament Programme, Highlights from yesterday's election of the new Speaker, presented by Anne Perkins (194654)
12.30 Business Daily, The latest news and analysis from the world's money markets (46515)
1.00 Sesame Street, Early learning series. The guest is actress Jamie Lee Curtis (34770)
2.00 Film: In the Navy (1941), b/w starring Abbott and Costello. Musical comedy about a crooner who enlists in the navy and teams up with two old hands. With Dick Powell and the Andrews Sisters. Directed by Arthur Lubin (610683)
3.35 Visit Prague, Animation (2849468)
3.50 The Tribulations of St Anthony, The popular saint as depicted by various artists through the centuries, including Bosch, Dali, Veronese and Max Ernst (5258770)
4.30 Fifteen to One, Fast-moving general knowledge quiz hosted by William G. Stewart (5) (428)
5.00 It's a Dog's Life, Includes a look at the dogs who star in *The Bitch* (7867)
5.30 Best That Liverpool, Children turn their town into Hollywood for a video they are making (480)
6.00 Treasure Hunt, Annabel Croft scours east Sussex for hidden treasure (1). (Teletext) (21206)
7.00 Channel 4 News, (Teletext) Weather (517206)
7.50 Comment (732751)
8.00 People First, A look at three people with learning disabilities. (Teletext) (6751)



Bound for Australia: London taxi and passengers (8.30pm)

8.30 A Fare to Remember, The first of two programmes about a £31,000 cab fare from Buckingham Palace to Sydney (1). (Teletext) (5886)
9.00 Rear Window: Looking Both Ways — Berlin, Istanbul.
 ● CHOICE: A new season of Channel 4's international art series begins with this enjoyable profile of the Turkish painter Hanif Yulter whose colourful art has been influenced not only by his own cultural background but by the experience of being homeless in Berlin. As he explains, his style reflects the traditions of Ottoman miniatures, displaying a surface, vertical rather than three-dimensional approach. But his subject matter straddles East and West. His work on the fall of the Berlin Wall reveals a sensitive understanding of the nation in which he now lives, while other pieces, such as *The Bitch* and *The Devil*, reach beyond the Turkish theme to offer universal messages about the dangers of eroticism (752393)
9.45 Plasticine People, Two Aardman animations (1) (150954)
10.00 Film: The Company of Strangers (1990).
 ● CHOICE: Canadian director Cynthia Scott made her feature film debut with this remarkable piece of work now repaying its first airing on network television. The pace is very slow, the story very simple. A busload of elderly women find themselves stranded in the middle of nowhere and for a few days the strangers look after each other in a deserted farmhouse. As they go about their tasks looking for food, mending the bus and vaguely attempting to fish, they begin to confide, revealing diverse fascinating past lives, loves and careers. The extraordinary part of all this is that these are not actresses but members of the public, discovered by the director and encouraged to reflect on their time on earth. The result is extremely moving, the film seemingly capturing the very essence of their characters. (Teletext) (5) (878577)
11.55 Empty Nest, Comedy series starring Richard (Soap) Mulligan (5) (88206)
12.25am The Schoenberg Cycle, The Schoenberg Quartet play the Spring Quartet in D Major (5) (4202468)
12.55 Film: The Lad (1935), b/w starring Gordon Harker. Comedy about a former convict who is mistaken for a detective by a wealthy family. Directed by Henry Edwards (9308523). Ends at 2.15

SATellite

SKY ONE
 ● Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites.
6.00am The Di, 9.30 *Nightline* (88515) 10.00 *Dayline* (82610) 10.30 *Be* (1130) 11.00 *John* (82610) 11.30 *John* (82610) 12.00 *John* (82610) 12.30 *John* (82610) 1.00 *John* (82610) 1.30 *John* (82610) 2.00 *John* (82610) 2.30 *John* (82610) 3.00 *John* (82610) 3.30 *John* (82610) 4.00 *John* (82610) 4.30 *John* (82610) 5.00 *John* (82610) 5.30 *John* (82610) 6.00 *John* (82610) 6.30 *John* (82610) 7.00 *John* (82610) 7.30 *John* (82610) 8.00 *John* (82610) 8.30 *John* (82610) 9.00 *John* (82610) 9.30 *John* (82610) 10.00 *John* (82610) 10.30 *John* (82610) 11.00 *John* (82610) 11.30 *John* (82610) 12.00 *John* (82610) 12.30 *John* (82610) 1.00 *John* (82610) 1.30 *John* (82610) 2.00 *John* (82610) 2.30 *John* (82610) 3.00 *John* (82610) 3.30 *John* (82610) 4.00 *John* (82610) 4.30 *John* (82610) 5.00 *John* (82610) 5.30 *John* (82610) 6.00 *John* (82610) 6.30 *John* (82610) 7.00 *John* (82610) 7.30 *John* (82610) 8.00 *John* (82610) 8.30 *John* (82610) 9.00 *John* (82610) 9.30 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